

Jesus Covers Some Serious Theological Ground!

- Opening Announcements
- Opening Prayer

Q: Have you ever noticed how Jesus covers a LOT of ground in the book of Mark? Why do you think that is? What does that tell us about His earthly ministry?

Q: What issues/ideas/themes have you noticed about Mark's Gospel so far?

Table Time...

READ: Mark 3:7-11 "Jesus withdrew with his disciples to the sea, and a great crowd followed, from Galilee and Judea ⁸ and Jerusalem and Idumea and from beyond the Jordan and from around Tyre and Sidon. When the great crowd heard all that he was doing, they came to him. ⁹ And he told his disciples to have a boat ready for him because of the crowd, lest they crush him, ¹⁰ for he had healed many, so that all who had diseases pressed around him to touch him. ¹¹ And whenever the unclean spirits saw him, they fell down before him and cried out, "You are the Son of God." ¹² And he strictly ordered them not to make him known."

Q: What's the meaning of listing all the different places people were from?

Q: According to verse 8b, WHY did they come?

Q: Why did Jesus tell the disciples to have a boat ready?

Q: What was the response of the "unclean spirits"?

Q: Why did Jesus "strictly order them not to make Him known"?

READ: 3:12- 21 "And he went up on the mountain and called to him those whom he desired, and they came to him. ¹⁴ And he appointed twelve (whom he also named apostles) so that they might be with him and he might send them out to preach ¹⁵ and have authority to cast out demons. ¹⁶ He appointed the twelve: Simon (to whom he gave the name Peter); ¹⁷ James the son of Zebedee and John the brother of James (to whom he gave the name Boanerges, that is, Sons of Thunder); ¹⁸ Andrew, and Philip, and Bartholomew, and Matthew, and Thomas, and James the son of Alphaeus, and Thaddaeus, and Simon the Zealot, ¹⁹ and Judas Iscariot, who betrayed him. ²⁰ Then he went home, and the crowd gathered again, so that they could not even eat. ²¹ And when his family heard it, they went out to seize him, for they were saying, "He is out of his mind."

Q: What's interesting about verse 12? Where have we seen "mountain-top encounters" before?

Q: What's interesting about the "names" and the name changes of the Apostles?

Q: When Jesus goes "home", what happens?

Q: What's the reaction of Jesus' family?

READ: Mark 3:22-29 "And the scribes who came down from Jerusalem were saying, "He is possessed by Beelzebul," and "by the prince of demons he casts out the demons." ²³ And he called them to him and said to them in parables, "How can Satan cast out Satan? ²⁴ If a kingdom is divided against itself, that kingdom cannot stand. ²⁵ And if a house is divided against itself, that house will not be able to stand. ²⁶ And if Satan has risen up against himself and is divided, he cannot stand, but is coming to an end. ²⁷ But no one can enter a strong man's house and plunder his goods, unless he first binds the strong man. Then indeed he may plunder his house. ²⁸ "Truly, I say to you, all sins will be forgiven the children of man, and whatever blasphemies they utter, ²⁹ but whoever blasphemes against the Holy Spirit never has forgiveness, but is guilty of an eternal sin" — ³⁰ for they were saying, "He has an unclean spirit."

Q: What's the reaction of the "scribes"? What's Jesus' response in verses 23-27?

Q: What's verses 28-29 about?

Q: What IS the "Blasphemy against the Holy Spirit"?

Big Group Debrief...

NOTICE: "Blasphemy" is to say outrageous and untrue about someone. In verse 21 above the family "blasphemed" against Jesus (He's crazy!). In this section the Scribes (religious experts in the Word/Law), equate the Holy Spirit (see Mark 1:10-11) with the devil therefore the blaspheme against the Holy Spirit! ALSO remember: Luke 24:34 "And Jesus said, "Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do." (Like His brothers/family called Him Crazy). So, Jesus forgives us when we don't know what we do, BUT, when we resist, and speak outrageous things against God's Holy Spirit (the accusation of the scribes, who DID know God's Word about Christ), we step outside forgiveness unless there is "repentance" and forgiveness of sins.

Q: Why is being careful about what we say/do towards the Holy Spirit important?

Q: If you're concerned about whether or not you've offended the Holy Spirit, what does that ACTUALLY indicate? (Hint: John 16:8)

Q: How can you avoid "blasphemy against the Holy Spirit"?