

SCRIPTURE: Mark 3:13-19; 14:12-21 **TITLE:** Strange Herd

Intro: *Ice Age.* Could've died trying to save me. That's what you do in a herd. You look out for each other. I don't know about you guys, but we are the weirdest herd I have ever seen.

Thesis: "Jesus's Kingdom is a Weird Herd."

I. You Belong in the Kingdom

- A. **Peter** - "Rocky". Tough Guy. Act first, Question later. Impulsive? Racist/Partial? ROME.
- B. **James&John** - Sons of Thunder. Wrath. Justice. Fire-heaven. James - Herod/Sword. John old Age.
- C. **Andrew** - Peter's Bro. Brought him to Jesus. Background guy. Ukraine/Russia/Kyiv. "X" cross.
- D. **Philip&Bartholomew (Nathanel)** - Friends. Nate: "No deceit." Fig Tree. "Greater things."
- E. **Matthew(Levi)** - Tax Collector/Sinner. Traitor/Sell Out. Pastor/Evangelist in Jerusalem. Jews. Irony
- F. **Thomas** - Skeptic. Doubt. Proof. Evidence. Logic. Pessimist. Realist. 1st Reformed/Presby. PCA. India
- G. **James** - "*the Lesser*". Younger? Shy? Scholars think he was the Shorter one. You short? Belong!
- H. **Thaddeus** - (Judas/Jude). Zealot. Patriotic. Nationalist. Jews. Rebel against Rome. *Star Wars*/Empire.
- I. **Simon THE zealot** - Violent rebellion.. Democrat/Republican. Storm Capitol. "*Merica*" / "*Rusalem*."
- J. **Judas** - Betrayer. Lover of Money. Greed. 1/12. Even Jesus has disciples who are undercover.

APPLICATION: So no matter what your background, personality, quirks, weaknesses, nationality, ethnicity, culture, favorite food, color or team or party. And no matter your sins, by the grace of believing in this Jesus, answering His call to follow Him. *You belong in His Kingdom.*

II. But So Do Others

A. ***Jesus called them.*** Jack Miller: I don't get to choose the elect. Who I love. I wish I did.

B. ***Love One Another as He has loved us.*** You belong here & In my life. He loves them.

ILLUSTRATION: Love Jesus's Bride. You know, I really like you. But I'm not a big fan of your wife. She kind of annoys me. So I'm cool with you. Hanging out. But don't bring your wife.

C. ***You Belong in the Kingdom, But so do others.*** Others who don't think like you. Eat like you. Dress like you. Worship like you. Talk like you. Read like you. Study like you. Look like you. Vote like you. Agree with you or you with them.

D. ***When we fight with each other, instead of following Jesus and loving each other.*** Guess who wins? Somebody might be thinking nobody. But actually, it's the Devil. Satan wins. Satan hates Christians. He hates Christian fellowship. Christian joy. Christian love. Christian unity. Christian worship. Christian Mission/Evangelism. But he loves it when Christian fight and get distracted and torn apart and competitive, and gossip/slander.

ILLUSTRATION: LOTR. Fellowship. Haldir. Loth Lorien. *'Indeed in nothing is the power of the Dark Lord more clearly shown than in the estrangement that divides all those who still oppose him. Yet so little faith and trust do we find now in the world beyond Lothlórien, unless maybe in Rivendell, that we dare not by our own trust endanger our land. We live now upon an island amid many perils, and our hands are more often upon the bowstring than upon the harp.'*

APPLICATION: "*That's what you do in a herd. You look out for each other.*"

1. You might get to eat with someone tonight that you've never met before. You might get to eat with someone you don't really like. You might even get to eat with someone who's hurt you. That's no accident. That's an opportunity to be Jesus to your neighbor.

2. Tonight (Maundy Thursday), we remember that after He had supper with them, Jesus was betrayed by one friend, denied by another, abandoned by all, arrested and placed on trial before he was unjustly killed like a criminal. How did He respond? "Father, Forgive them. They don't know what they're doing."

3. These are the kind of people Jesus chooses. Different. Weak. Sinful. But on his last night he washed their feet, he ate dinner with them and he sang with them. And that's what we get to do tonight. And we can only do that because of the grace and love that Jesus first shows us.

Mark 3:13-19

13 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.

Mark 14:12-21

12 And on the first day of Unleavened Bread, when they sacrificed the Passover lamb, his disciples said to him, "Where will you have us go and prepare for you to eat the Passover?" 13 And he sent two of his disciples and said to them, "Go into the city, and a man carrying a jar of water will meet you. Follow him, 14 and wherever he enters, say to the master of the house, 'The Teacher says, Where is my guest room, where I may eat the Passover with my disciples?' 15 And he will show you a large upper room furnished and ready; there prepare for us." 16 And the disciples set out and went to the city and found it just as he had told them, and they prepared the Passover.

17 And when it was evening, he came with the twelve. 18 And as they were reclining at table and eating, Jesus said, "Truly, I say to you, one of you will betray me, one who is eating with me." 19 They began to be sorrowful and to say to him one after another, "Is it I?" 20 He said to them, "It is one of the twelve, one who is dipping bread into the dish with me. 21 For the Son of Man goes as it is written of him, but woe to that man by whom the Son of Man is betrayed! It would have been better for that man if he had not been born."