

ABOUT HOME GROUPS

In the hustle and pressures of life, we hope that Home Groups are a step aside to be with friends. God designed us to be and share life with each other. In recent days, friends have experienced highs and lows, success and failure, and we had the opportunity to encourage and support each other. Let's keep being there to share, learn, pray, and enjoy the goodness of God as we love each other and live out God's purposes.

WALKING THROUGH "MARK" TOGETHER

Last week, we read through the first two chapters of "Mark" and a few themes rolled out:

- Jesus is unlike any other person in history: He fulfills predictions /prophecies made hundreds of years prior, His teaching is with authority and power, He is affirmed by God from heaven, and His miracles authenticate His identity and authority.
- He is on a mission to bring the "good news" of "the kingdom of God."
- He called people to "repent and believe" and invited them to "follow" Him.

This week, we will discuss Mark 3:7-35. Jesus now has a following of many people and continues to walk and serve the peoples in the region of Galilee. This was a multi-cultural area of Jewish, Greek, and Roman peoples who were mostly lower income. Many were barely subsistence living and hoping to live peacefully under the rule of the Roman authorities.

Read Mark 3:7-35 and consider the following questions together.

In the previous chapters, Jesus and His new followers have traveled for days, teaching, healing, and solving problems. What happens in this chapter?

Multiple stories:

- His popularity was climbing and people were coming from far away
 - His disciples were multiplying
 - He was teaching, healing many, and casting out demons who tried to have power over Him but He subdued them.
 - Through Jesus healing and casting out of demons, Jesus, in God's power, was bringing in the kingdom of God. This was defeating the rule of Satan.
- Jesus appointed 12.
- Jesus' own family thought they needed to take charge of Him
- The teachers of the Law accused Him of being controlled by Satan.
 - He told a parable that revealed that would mean that Satan was opposing himself
 - He also taught that people can be forgiven all their sins and slander BUT blaspheming against the Holy Spirit

- This means that God will not forgive those who attribute the works done by Jesus under the power and direction of the Holy Spirit and the work of Satan.
- This in turn implies that these “teachers of the law have blasphemed the Holy Spirit.
- Jesus’ mother and brothers and sisters arrived to take charge of Jesus. He taught the disciples that his family are those who do God’s will.

Note that his disciples are mentioned in every story.

The crowds named in the first story (v. 8) came from multiple other regions that were many miles and days away. Why were they coming?

The news about Jesus was traveling fast. They knew that they wanted and needed healing, truth, and relationship with God.

There were many different groups / entities named. What were their reactions to Jesus? What are the contrasts?

Disciples: With Jesus to learn, to follow, to serve

Crowds: Ran to Jesus for teaching, healing, etc.

Impure spirits: Caused final pains, attempted to gain mastery over Jesus.

Disciples who went up a hill with Jesus: Followed Jesus wherever he went. The twelve became His key servants/followers.

Jesus’ family: Thought He was “out of his mind”

Teachers of the Law: Accused him of doing His works by the power / authority of Satan.

Crowd sitting around Him: Listening, learning, and ready to do the will of God.

When Jesus appointed the twelve (vs. 14-19), there were many other disciples with Him. What were these twelve men appointed to be/do?

1) that they might be with him and (2) that he might send them out to preach ¹⁵ and (3) to have authority to drive out demons.

Whom were Jesus’ primary audience? Why?

- Jesus’ focus was on the disciples (7, 13, 20, 34-35)
- These were the people who would go on to bring in the kingdom of God.

What do we learn about the identity and authority of Jesus?

He is the Son of God, the Messiah, who came to bring in the kingdom of God. Those who repent and believe and follow in obedience to God’s will become family with Jesus.

DISCUSS TOGETHER

This passage has some surprising responses to Jesus. Some, whom one might think to be insiders, are outsiders, and some, whom one might think to be outsiders are insiders. According to Jesus, who were and are the insiders? Who is family to Jesus?

Jesus appointing of the twelve (vs. 14-19) was a nested narrative within Jesus' traveling ministry. Was this a secondary or primary story? Why?

What do we learn about what it means to be a disciple? What do we learn about the roles of disciples? In what ways are we, today, to continue the same roles and duties?

APPLY IT THIS WEEK

In these stories, people flocked to, ran after, and went to Jesus. They recognized that there is no one like Him and suffered days and many miles to see and know Him. That was because they recognized Him and knew that He was the source of healing, truth, and life. As we walk through our week, will we go after Him? Will I put sitting at His feet and following Him above all else?