

JESUS' MINISTRY AND THE DISCIPLES' APPOINTMENT

--MARK 3:7-19--

INTRODUCTION:

In our passage this morning Mark summarizes Jesus Christ's ministry. In doing this Mark zeroes in on three key themes that he has already clearly shown us. First, he will focus on Jesus' growing popularity and how far it reaches. Second, Mark will again describe for us Jesus' power and authority over the physical and the spiritual world, and third we will see as He personally chooses and appoints twelve men to be His disciples. All three of these themes focus in and give proof to the central theological truth of verse 11 which states of Jesus, "You are the Son of God."

I. JESUS' POPULARITY (Mark 3:7-9)

- a. After His clash with the Pharisees, the latest one being over the Sabbath, which ended with the Pharisees conspiring with Herodians how they might _____ Jesus.
- b. When it speaks of His _____ here it is speaking of not only those who He has called, but also of an unknown number of those who had chosen to follow Him.
- c. By leaving the city and going out to this isolated place Jesus left behind those who were plotting His _____ for the time being.
- d. Imagine if you were a part of the _____ that was pressing into see Jesus, you would have experienced supernatural displays of power never before seen in all of history.
- e. The _____ of Jesus were public and undeniable which is why people kept coming.
- f. From this we learn that most of those who had come to see _____ were only there to experience His miracles.

II. JESUS' POWER (Mark 3:10-12)

- a. As I already mentioned, Jesus' popularity was due to His miracles this is what drew the people, but popularity was not His _____.

- b. Those crowding around Him were doing so to just _____ Him and be healed. (Mark 6:56)
- c. Jesus was not only healing those who had physical diseases or disabilities, but He was also casting out _____.
- d. The incomparable _____ and authority that Jesus had over the demons caused the people to wonder who He was.

III. JESUS' APPOINTS 12 DISCIPLES (Mark 3:13-19)

- a. Mark now turns his attention away from the popularity and power of Jesus to focus on the _____ of a select group of disciples.
- b. By choosing 12 disciples Jesus was making a _____ on Israel's unbelief.
- c. Jesus knew that their hatred would ultimately lead to His _____, just as was planned by His Father.
- d. Mark gives us two _____ for Jesus appointing these twelve men.
 1. First, so that they could be _____ Him.
 2. Second, Jesus appointed these twelve so that He could send them out to _____.
- e. This calling would not be easy, they would be _____ and persecuted by the religious establishment.
- f. In appointing them as His delegates, Jesus gave them the _____ to cast out demons.
- g. Mark ends this passage by naming for us the twelve that were _____ and appointed by Jesus to be with Him and to be sent out by Him to preach. (Psalm 41:9)

CONCLUSION:

As we come to a close this morning and we look at this passage and at the twelve men that Jesus chose to be His disciples it must be agreed that from a human standpoint these twelve men were odd choices. First, because they were uneducated and had no theological training. Second, they were untrained for what Jesus chose them to do. And third, they were ordinary men with little influence outside their own circle. But, from God's viewpoint, they were the perfect

choice—weak and imperfect vessels through whom the power of Jesus could be gloriously displayed. Before their lives were over, God had used them to turn the world upside down. That our Lord can use such ordinary men to accomplish His great purposes highlights the supernatural purpose of His sovereign power. In this short passage Mark gives us a sweeping summary of that power shown in the miracles Jesus performed, shown in His authority over both the physical and the spiritual world. That power was also demonstrated in the men whom He chose. He took twelve ordinary men and transformed them into the powerful foundation stones of His church.