

Jesus Came to Create a New People

Mark 3:7-19

Read Mark 3:7-19 together:

⁷ 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.

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.

Context: Look at verses 7-12.

- ? What did the demons cry out? Why isn't this knowledge enough to save?
- ? What Bible stories from the Old or New Testament demonstrate that God uses the weak to defeat the strong?

God most often uses regular people to accomplish his incredible purposes.

- ? What is the definition of "disciple"? Use a dictionary if necessary. How were the disciples of Jesus different from the crowds that followed him?
- ? Look at verse 14. What are the twelve disciples also appointed as?
- ? Have you come across someone claiming to be a modern apostle? How should you respond?
- ? Look at verse 13. Who chooses the twelve disciples?
- ? What do you know about the professions and social status of the twelve disciples?
- ? Read 1 Corinthians 1:26-29. Why does God use regular people to accomplish his purposes?

Application:

- ? What does discipleship look like in your life?
- ? What would it look like for Berean to be a decidedly regular church? What things would we commit to doing well?
- ? What have you felt God calling you to do (think about both the big and small acts of everyday life) that you've avoided out of fear or a feeling of insufficiency?
- ? What can you do to soften your heart in humility and prepare to say yes when God calls you to do something?