

With Him and with Power

Mark 3.13-21

Be with Him

- Come out of the crowd
 - Crowds only want Him for what He does for them
 - It can be a religious crowd – baptizing worldly things in Jesus’ name like HWP do
 - Think this doesn’t apply to you? There *isn’t* Christianity without discipleship
 - Mark 8.31-36 – same message for crowds and disciples
- Come to Him
 - Hear His call and obey
 - Gospel – Jesus must suffer and die but rise again (Peter missed it) SAY YES
 - Gospel – respond by grace through faith and continue to walk by grace through faith SAY YES
- Stay close to Him
 - Hear what He says (4.1ff) – prayer and Bible, Bible and prayer
 - Do what He commands (3.35)
 - Go where He goes (2.23)
 - You think it’s boring? Everyone ends up in trouble or misunderstood (and the latter is often more painful – 3.20-21)
 - Be with His people (2.13ff, 3.16)
 - We are an imperfect group who are perfect for each other
 - The 12: diverse in backgrounds, vocations, worldviews, politics, even appearance
 - Imperfect people – traitors, cowards, hypocrites, murderers, adulterers, oppressors, religious zealots, and judges

Be sent out

- If you are gathered – that’s good! But then we must scatter
- If you are scattered – that’s good! But then we must gather
 - It’s the “being with Him” that qualified them to be sent out – but He always sends out
 - To be clear: intimacy with God is the most consequential thing we have to offer the world!
- To preach the Gospel
 - No getting around it – this means giving verbal witness to what God has said and done
 - Not a sermon but a clear witness and verbal witness
 - 3-tier strategy – Culture of Invitation, Tell Your Story, Share the Gospel
- To push back darkness

- In secular society, Devil works behind the scenes but with great effect
 - Teaching of demons (1 Tim 4)
 - Unfruitful works of darkness (Eph 5)
- Wherever we see darkness, we come as light
 - Not bringing the light – you ARE the light
- We have authority, from Jesus, to do what He desires done on the earth
 - 1 John 4.4 – greater is He who is in us
 - Security – what’s the worse that can happen?
 - Power – the way we know He’s greater is by seeing Him use us to defeat darkness
 - Created by God the Father, redeemed by God the Son, gifted and empowered by God the Spirit to do the works of God
- Message and Authority – but it all starts with Yes Lord

Questions for Discussion

1. The sermon argued that the crowds only wanted God for what He could give them. Reread Mark 3.7-12. How do you understand asking God for what you need versus only asking God for what you want? How would each express itself?
2. Reread Mark 8.31-36. Jesus uses the same message for the crowd and the disciples. Why do you think this is? What specifically does Jesus say in this passage that challenges you?
3. If we are going to “Be with Him,” we have to make plans to do so. We will not drift into intimacy with God. In the sermon, Trent offered 4 practical ways we can do this. Which one is easiest for you? Most difficult? Why?
4. Christ sends us out to do two things. The first one is preach. What are the names of two people in your life who need to hear the Good News of Jesus? What is one step you can take to get that Good News to them? Can you use our three-tiered strategy (Culture of Invitation, Tell Your Story, Share the Gospel) to help?
5. The second thing Christ sends us to do is push back the darkness. What is one place in our world that you see darkness? What is one place in YOUR world that you see darkness? Even if you can’t do anything about the first, you can do something about the second. What is one step you need to take to fulfill what Jesus has sent us out to do?