

Mark 3:7-19

I. The Nature of Jesus

- a. Authority over the supernatural (as well as the natural)
 - i. Verb in v. 12 also the verb used when he rebukes wind and waves in 4:39
- b. Jesus is someone worthy to follow

II. The Ministry of Jesus

- a. His miracles gained him great popularity in Israel
 - i. V. 8—various locations show how widespread his fame had become
- b. Jesus ministers to the crowds, but that is not his focus
 - i. Jesus exercises a ministry of compassion to the crowd (v. 10-11)
 - ii. Jesus desires to stay low key (v. 7, 12, 13)
 - iii. Mark implies that the crowd at times is a hindrance to ministry (v. 9, 20)

III. The Crowds

- a. At least among many, they are interested in what Jesus can do for them, but not necessarily who he is
- b. Crowds are fickle (*Mark 15:11-15; John 2:23-25; 6:66*)

IV. The Twelve

- a. Significance of 12
 - i. Represents the 12 tribes of Israel and the shift in God's people
 - ii. God's people are now those who follow Christ
- b. Variety of the 12
 - i. They came from various backgrounds: fishermen, tax collector, zealot, etc.—followers of Jesus do not have to fit a certain look
 - ii. Often portrayed to be clueless and even incompetent—God often uses the humble over the proud, the foolish over the wise, the weak over the strong. Why? To remind us it's his power, not ours
- c. The focus of the 12: to be with Jesus (v. 14)
- d. The Mission of the 12
 - i. The preach and exercise the same authority Jesus displayed
 - ii. To make disciples (followers) of all nations (*Matthew 28:18-20*)
 - iii. Apostle: messenger; one who is sent

V. So what?

- a. Where are you at?

- i. The crowd? Still checking Jesus out; interested but not ready to commit
 - ii. An authentic follower of Jesus? Living life according to his purposes and mission
 - iii. It is fine to begin in the crowd, to consider Jesus, but Christ calls us to more- to commit ourselves fully to him
- b. As a church; it's exciting to see growing numbers in attendance, but it's far more important to be building spiritual depth to those who do come