

The Jesus We Never Knew
“The People Jesus Chooses to Use”
Mark 3

How Jesus sees and chooses those He uses differs from the world. The process differs, people chosen differ, even the outcome of leadership differs. What discipleship (servant-leader) principles do we learn from Jesus life and teaching?

1. Its about people not rules, stupid! (1-6)
2. Its about what Jesus wants, not democracy (13-19)
3. Its about abiding in the heart of Jesus Christ. (1 Tim 3)

Mark 3

Another time he went into the synagogue, and a man with a shriveled hand was there. Some of them were looking for a reason to accuse Jesus, so they watched him closely to see if he would heal him on the Sabbath. Jesus said to the man with the shriveled hand, "Stand up in front of everyone." Then Jesus asked them, "Which is lawful on the Sabbath: to do good or to do evil, to save life or to kill?" But they remained silent. He looked around at them in anger and, deeply distressed at their stubborn hearts, said to the man, "Stretch out your hand." He stretched it out, and his hand was completely restored. Then the Pharisees went out and began to plot with the Herodians how they might kill Jesus. (1 - 6)

Crowds Follow Jesus

Jesus withdrew with his disciples to the lake, and a large crowd from Galilee followed. When they heard all he was doing, many people came to him from Judea, Jerusalem, Idumea, and the regions across the Jordan and around Tyre and Sidon. Because of the crowd he told his disciples to have a small boat ready for him, to keep the people from crowding him. For he had healed many, so that those with diseases were pushing forward to touch him. Whenever the evil spirits saw him, they fell down before him and cried out, "You are the Son of God." But he gave them strict orders not to tell who he was. (7 - 12)

The Appointing of the Twelve Apostles

Jesus went up on a mountainside and called to him those he wanted, and they came to him. He appointed twelve - designating them apostles - that they might be with him and that he might send them out to preach and to have authority to drive out demons. These are the twelve he appointed: Simon (to whom he gave the name Peter); James son of Zebedee and his brother John (to them he gave the name Boanerges, which means Sons of Thunder); Andrew, Philip, Bartholomew, Matthew, Thomas, James son of Alphaeus, Thaddaeus, Simon the Zealot and Judas Iscariot, who betrayed him. (13 - 19)

1 Timothy 3:1-7

Overseers and Deacons

Here is a trustworthy saying: If anyone sets his heart on being an overseer, he desires a noble task. Now the overseer must be above reproach, the husband of but one wife, temperate, self-controlled, respectable, hospitable, able to teach, not given to drunkenness, not violent but gentle, not quarrelsome, not a lover of money. He must manage his own family well and see that his children obey him with proper respect. (If anyone does not know how to manage his own family, how can he take care of God's church?) He must not be a recent convert, or he may become conceited and fall under the same judgment as the devil. He must also have a good reputation with outsiders, so that he will not fall into disgrace and into the devil's trap. (1 - 7)

Questions for personal reflection and small group discussion:

1. How is it that we can slip into rule keeping over people keeping in our spiritual journeys? How can we detect this tendency in order to avoid legalism? When is it appropriate to be angry as Jesus was angry? Holding this tension, how are we, on the other hand to be proclaimers of Gods truth? With what attitudes do we share truth? (3:1-6)
 2. Throughout Mark 3, what attitudes and thinking do you see in
a) the religious establishment, Scribes, Pharisees b) the crowds
c) Jesus followers & Apostles?
 3. Jesus chose as apostles both Simon the Zealot (an extremist religious group with so much zeal for the law, theyd arm themselves in order to violently overthrow Rome to establish Gods kingdom) and Matthew the tax collector (same guy as Levi in Mark 2:14, one of the marginalized). What does this say to you about Jesus view of the Kingdom of God? The new Israel?
 4. Jesus chose the Twelve in the midst of great opposition and controversy. What kind of statement was Jesus making to His enemies by choosing and commissioning these Twelve apostles? (3:14-15)
 5. As noted, Jesus called together former enemies like Matthew the tax collector and Simon the Zealot (3:16, 18). How has Christ changed your own attitudes toward people, or groups of people, with whom you previously did not associate? What changes in attitude do you feel you still need to make?
 6. What process do we as the reconstituted Israel, the Church, discern Jesus voice and leading for His choosing qualified elders & pastors to lead His Church today?
 7. Thinking of the qualifications as a mature Christian in 1 Timothy 3: 1-7, how would you rate yourself as a Christ follower regarding
a) your relationship with God; b) your relationship with your family;
c) your relationship with yourself; d) your relationship and reputation with outsiders. Would you set your heart to be an elder or pastor in our church?
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