

WHO DO YOU SAY HE IS?



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Mark 3:7–19

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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.

What do disciples do?

Be with Jesus

- “When the great crowd heard all that he was doing, they came to him. . . . **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 (vv. 8b, 13–14).
- Who are the disciples?
 - We are more than the crowds
 - The first disciples are unique and unrepeatable but do create a paradigm to follow.
 - We are chosen by Jesus
 - “6 “For you are a people holy to the Lord your God. The Lord your God has chosen you to be a people for his treasured possession, out of all the peoples who are on the face of the earth. 7 It was not because you were more in number than any other people that the Lord set his love on you and chose you, for you were the fewest of all peoples, 8 but it is because the Lord loves you and is keeping the oath that he swore to your fathers, that the Lord has brought you out with a mighty hand and redeemed you from the house of slavery, from the hand of Pharaoh king of Egypt” (Deuteronomy 6:7–8).
 - We are with Jesus
 - Discipleship is intentional, embodied, relational, and practice based
 - How do we be with Jesus?
 - “Transformation *is* possible *if* we are willing to arrange our lives around the practices, rhythms, and truths that Jesus himself did, which will open out lives to God’s power to change” (John Mark Comer, *Practicing the Way*, xvii).
 - Have the Holy Spirit
 - 16 And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Helper, to be with you forever, 17 even the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him, for he dwells with you and will be in you (John 14:16–17).
 - Keep God before you
 - “For you are not setting your mind on the things of God, but on the things of man” (Matthew 16:23)
 - “Seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be added to you” (Matthew 6:23).
- You cannot be a disciple if you are not being with Jesus.

Be Sent by Jesus

- “**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” (vv. 14–15).
- What were the disciples to do?

- “Through the symbolism of choosing the twelve, Jesus was proclaiming that he was bringing the long-awaited kingdom of God to Israel” (Robert Stein, *Mark*, 169–170).
- We are the new, better Israel
 - 3 while Moses went up to God. The Lord called to him out of the mountain, saying, “Thus you shall say to the house of Jacob, and tell the people of Israel: 4 ‘You yourselves have seen what I did to the Egyptians, and how I bore you on eagles’ wings and brought you to myself. 5 Now therefore, if you will indeed obey my voice and keep my covenant, you shall be my treasured possession among all peoples, for all the earth is mine; 6 and you shall be to me a kingdom of priests and a holy nation.’ These are the words that you shall speak to the people of Israel” (Exodus 19:3–6).
- We do what Jesus did
 - “How would Jesus live if he had my gender, place, personality profile, age, life stage, job, resources, and address? How would he show up to the world? How would he handle _____? (John Mark Comer, *Practicing the Way*, 123).
- We do it how Jesus did it
 - “Jesus returned in the power of the Spirit . . .” (Luke 4:14).
 - “Jesus did miracles not by flexing his God muscles like Thor but by living in reliance on the Spirit’s power” (John Mark Comer, *Practicing the Way*, 125).
- You cannot be a disciple if you are not doing what Jesus did.

Jesus’ kingdom comes through disciples who are with him, sent by him, and becoming like him.

- If you are being with Jesus and doing what Jesus did, you should be becoming like Jesus.
- Are you becoming like Jesus?