

{The Book of Mark}

Sermon Series: Who is this man? [Sermon #12]

Sermon Title: Behold. Be sent.

{The Essence of Discipleship}

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Life in our world today can be quite complex and difficult. At times we all feel stressed because there is so much to do. We cry out for **simplicity** but seem to not be able to get there.

Well, if you were to simplify your life as a follower of Jesus, what would you narrow it down to? Let's say you had to narrow it down to 2 things. What would you narrow it down to? If our church were to focus on 2 things, what would we focus on?

Question: What is the essence of what it means to follow Jesus?

Let's turn in our Bibles to Mark 3:13-19. We skipped over Mark 3:7-12 and the reason is because we are starting a new section in the book and verses 7-12 are a sort of repeat introduction that we have already talked about before.

This new section begins here with the calling of the 12 and concludes in Mark 6 with the sending of the 12.

[Jesus is busy. Crowds are everywhere. They don't really get who he is. The crowds just want free healthcare and free food and to see some miracles. The demons are the only ones who really know who he is. As we will see later, his followers are still not sure and his family thinks he's insane.]

Let's read the text.

Mark 3:13-19

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 Cananaean, 19 and Judas Iscariot, who betrayed him.

I. JESUS CALLS TO HIMSELF WHOM HE DESIRES.

Jesus calls these 12 men to himself not based upon their works or their intellect and not even based upon their spiritual piety. In fact, they are the least likely people the world would call to become spiritual leaders. Fishermen, Tax collector, Rebels, Skeptics. Jesus called them by his sovereign choice and by his grace.

John 15:16 says, “You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you that you should go and bear fruit.”

What Jesus did by choosing his followers was quite odd in that day. A Rabbi usually had applications and people chose to study under a certain teacher just like colleges today. But Jesus picked his own.

Jesus picking 12 was significant because there were 12 tribes of Israel. Now, these men were not one from each tribe because there were a few sets of brothers. But they are the new people of God called out to be his special representatives in the world. Just as Israel was his chosen to represent God among the nations, so now in the New Covenant, Jesus is forming a new community.

The Bible is clear that we are also called. Even the word ‘church’ {Ekklesia} means ‘Called out ones’. We have been called by God out of the world to be his people.

Ephesians 1:3-6

3 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, 4 even as he chose us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and blameless before him. In love 5 he predestined us for adoption as sons through Jesus Christ, according to the purpose of his will, 6 to the praise of his glorious grace, with which he has blessed us in the Beloved.

Titus 3:4-5

4 But when the goodness and loving kindness of God our Savior appeared, 5 he saved us, not because of works done by us in righteousness, but according to his own mercy,

So, Jesus called to him those whom he desired, and they came to him and he called the most unlikely people. And he still does.

*Oh, brothers and sisters does your heart rejoice and overflow with praise because God has called you to himself? He didn't have to open your eyes. He didn't have to open your deaf ears. He didn't have to raise you up and give life to your dead soul, but he did! REJOICE.

II. JESUS CALLS HIS FOLLOWERS TO 'BE WITH HIM'.

He didn't call them to attend some classes but to live life with him forevermore. You see, cause even after he ascended they still fellowshiped with him and after they died they would be with him again.

For 3 years they walked with him, ate with him, prayed with him, sang with him....

Acts 4:13

13 Now when they saw the boldness of Peter and John, and perceived that they were uneducated, common men, they were astonished. And they recognized that they had been with Jesus.

Spending time with Jesus will change you!

If you're not changed, it's because you haven't been with Jesus.

Education and social rank mean very little in God's kingdom. World looks at guanxi, diplomas, social class and caste. What qualifies a person in Jesus' kingdom is 'Being with Jesus'.

Understand what it is that Jesus gives us. He gives us himself. This is the greatest joy. Everlasting joy. Mystical union with Christ. **John 14:23** says, "23 Jesus answered him, "If anyone loves me, he will keep my word, and my Father will love him, and we will come to him and make our home with him."

Jesus called the 12 and he calls us to be with him, forever. They were with him for 3 years before he ascended then he promised he would be with them a different way. What was that way?

John 14:16-17

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 16:13-15

13 When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all the truth, for he will not speak on his own authority, but whatever he hears he will speak, and he will declare to you the things that are to come. 14 He will glorify me, for he will take what is mine and declare it to you. 15 All that the Father has is mine; therefore I said that he will take what is mine and declare it to you.

Now....just take a deep breath and pause for a second and think deeply.....

YOU GET TO COMMUNE WITH THE GOD OF THE UNIVERSE ANY TIME YOU WANT TO

We can talk to him in prayer. We can read this God-breathed book, His Word....anytime we want to.

*Oh, brothers and sisters.....take the time. Skip a meal. Skip whatever you must. War against the flesh and the devil which are fighting with all their might to get us to not...BE WITH JESUS.

summary:

1. Jesus called the disciples based on no merit of their own. He calls you based on no merit of your own.
2. Jesus called the 12 to be with him and learn to walk and talk and live like him. To KNOW him. He calls you to the same thing: himself.

number 3.....

III. JESUS CALLS TO SEND OUT.

‘Meet with Jesus enough and you’ll be sent out’ It’s impossible to BE WITH JESUS a lot and not feel his passion and embrace his kingdom mission. In fact, we all have times where we lack zeal

and fire and perspective and boldness....you know why? We haven't been with Jesus.

Jesus calls his followers to join him in his kingdom purposes. He doesn't call people to not be sent SOMEWHERE.

If you're not ministering somewhere, not sharing somewhere, not engaged in his kingdom.....it's because you're not being with Jesus.....instead you've embraced the world too much. You've bought into the world's values; Sucked into TV shows and internet!

*Awake oh sleeper, rise from the dead and Christ will shine on you!

Questions:

Was Matthew 28 (The Great Commission) given to only the 12?

Was Acts 1:8 (be his witnesses to the ends of the Earth) given to only the 12?

Oh....it was given to them and they 'turned the world upside down'. But it was also given to us.

You should ask yourself 2 questions this morning.

You should ask them **continually!**

1. What must I do to BE WITH JESUS/ Behold him more?

{commune with him, sing to him, get on your knees and pray to him, be still before him, & READ HIS WORD AND LISTEN TO HIM}

2. Where does Jesus want to send me?

{for most of you...it just means....change of perspective and focus...see your job, your home and your village as your mission field. He's already sent you there....it's just that you are disengaged. Some....he wants to send to the unreached, the neglected with the gospel, the unengaged.} Ask him where he wants to send you.

*Closing....

this is what it means to be a disciple...a follower of Jesus Christ...

BE WITH HIM

BE SENT OUT.