

THAT THEY SHOULD BE WITH HIM

MARK 3:13-19

Text: Mark 3:14

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¹⁴ And he ordained twelve, that they should be with him, and that he might send them forth to preach,

Introduction:

This is a special passage.

In these verses find Jesus taking some time out of His frantic schedule. He takes the time to commune with His Father and to choose the twelve men who will be His representatives to the lost sheep of Israel.

I said this passage was special and it is because it reminds us that anyone who will follow the Lord can be used by the Lord. As we look at the kind of men Jesus chose and used in those days it gives us hope in these days. If Jesus can use men like these in the manner that He did, then surely He can use you and me in these days.

Notice:

1. THE MASTER (VS. 13)

Mark 3:13

¹³ And he goeth up into a mountain, and calleth *unto him* whom he would: and they came unto him.

In this first verse the focus is on the Lord.

Notice:

A. A Time of Communion

Mark just tells us that Jesus “goeth up into a mountain”. Luke is a bit more specific.

Luke 6:12

¹² And it came to pass in those days, that he went out into a mountain to pray, and continued all night in prayer to God.

Jesus is about to ordain twelve men who will be His spokesmen, His representatives to the people of Israel.

This is a big decision and Jesus wants to be sure that He knows the mind of the Father. Thus, He sought a private place and spent the night in prayer seeking His Father’s will.

The fact that Jesus made prayer a priority in His life highlights our own need to seek the Lord in prayer. We are not God in the flesh. We are not the Savior and Redeemer of humanity.

Just a brief glimpse at prayer and the promises attached to it is enough for us to know its importance in our lives.

- God has promised to hear our prayers

Jeremiah 33:3

³ Call unto me, and I will answer thee, and shew thee great and mighty things, which thou knowest not.

Isaiah 65:24

²⁴ And it shall come to pass, that before they call, I will answer; and while they are yet speaking, I will hear.

- God has promised to answer our prayers

Matthew 7:7-8

⁷ Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you: ⁸ For every one that asketh receiveth; and he that seeketh findeth; and to him that knocketh it shall be opened.

John 16:23

²³ And in that day ye shall ask me nothing. Verily, verily, I say unto you, Whatsoever ye shall ask the Father in my name, he will give *it* you.

- God uses our prayers to accomplish His will in the world

James 5:16-18

¹⁶ Confess *your* faults one to another, and pray one for another, that ye may be healed. The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much. ¹⁷ Elias was a man subject to like passions as we are, and he prayed earnestly that it might not rain: and it

rained not on the earth by the space of three years and six months. ¹⁸ And he prayed again, and the heaven gave rain, and the earth brought forth her fruit.

B. A Time of Choice

There had been great multitudes following Jesus as He moved from place to place and ministered. Now, He chooses twelve men from among those vast multitudes to be His disciples. He had already called them to follow Him. We saw that with Peter, Andrew, James, John and Matthew. Now, He calls them to a special place of service.

Why did He call these men and not other men? Why were these singled out for this great honor? Was it something they possessed that other men lacked? Were they especially spiritual and close to the Lord? Did He know that they would make great preachers?

The Bible says “He called unto Him whom He would”. There was nothing special in these men. As we will see in a minute, they were common men with common deficiencies and common problems.

2. THE MISSION (vs. 14-15)

Mark 3:14-15

¹⁴ And he ordained twelve, that they should be with him, and that he might send them forth to preach, ¹⁵ And to have power to heal sicknesses, and to cast out devils:

These verses establish a pattern and the priority that we must not ignore.

A. Involved Discipleship – “that they should be with Him”

This is our first priority.

The Lord called these men to follow Him in a relationship of personal fellowship. He wanted to teach them His ways, and that required closeness. He wanted them to learn from Him and that required closeness. He wanted to train them by personal example, and that required closeness. Most of all, He wanted them just to be with Him because He loved them, and He desired their fellowship!

Being with Jesus should be the first priority in each of our lives.

If we would be like Him, then we must spend time with Him.

If we would serve Him like He desires, then we must spend time with Him.

There is nothing as important in your life as time spent with Jesus!

The time you spend with Him in the closet of prayer is worth more than all the gold in the world.

The time spent feeding in the green pastures of His Word is worth more than all the diamonds in the world.

The time spent in His presence as you walk through your day is more valuable than all the wealth of the universe.

Nothing compares to being with Him!

Some may say I can't get close to Him. The truth is, we are as close to Him as we want to be!

He has promised us that we can get as close as we like.

James 4:8

⁸ Draw nigh to God, and he will draw nigh to you. Cleanse *your* hands, *ye* sinners; and purify *your* hearts, *ye* double minded.

Here is His promise:

Jeremiah 29:13

¹³ And ye shall seek me, and find *me*, when ye shall search for me with all your heart.

B. Involved Declaration (vs.14) – send them forth to preach.

Mark 3:14

¹⁴ And he ordained twelve, that they should be with him, and that he might send them forth to preach,

C. Involved Demonstration (vs. 15)

Mark 3:15

¹⁵ And to have power to heal sicknesses, and to cast out devils:

They were given this power to validate their ministry to the people they preached to. The people knew that Jesus was a Healer and that He had power over demonic spirits. When the disciples came preaching and demonstrating that same power, the people knew that their message was real and that they were truly the servants of the Lord Jesus Christ.

In our day we do not need the sign gifts to validate our message. Why? The sign gifts were designed to speak to the Jewish people to let them know that their Messiah had come.

1 Corinthians 14:22

²² Wherefore tongues are for a sign, not to them that believe, but to them that believe not: but prophesying *serveth* not for them that believe not, but for them which believe.

Today, our message is validated by the lives Jesus changes by His grace.

3. THE MEN (VS. 16-19)

Mark 3:16-19

¹⁶ And Simon he surnamed Peter; ¹⁷ And James the *son* of Zebedee, and John the brother of James; and he surnamed them Boanerges, which is, The sons of thunder: ¹⁸ And Andrew, and Philip, and Bartholomew, and Matthew, and Thomas, and James the *son* of Alphaeus, and Thaddaeus, and Simon the Canaanite, ¹⁹ And Judas Iscariot, which also betrayed him: and they went into an house.

A. Their Names

- **Simon** – His name means rock or stone. Peter was the leader of the group. He was a fisherman with a family. He was outspoken and opinionated. He failed the Lord in a very public manner, but he humbled himself and was restored. He was used of the Lord in a mighty way in the early church.
- **James** – He was a fisherman. He was a member of the Lord's inner circle. James, Peter and John were singled out for a special time of ministry three times: when the daughter of Jairus was raised from the dead; when Jesus was transfigured; and when Jesus went a little further into Gethsemane to pray. James was a great leader in the early church, serving as its first Pastor. He was the first of the Apostles to be put to death for his faith in the Lord.

- **John** – He was the brother of James, and also one of the inner circle. John was known as the “Beloved Disciple”. He was a mighty influence in the early church, writing five books of the New Testament. John was the only Apostle not put to death for his faith, but he was persecuted, imprisoned and banished to a desert island.
- **Andrew** – He was the brother of Peter. He had been a fisherman before he came to Christ and every time he appears in the Gospel record, he is bringing someone to Jesus. Andrew was a powerful witness for the Lord Who saved him.
- **Philip** – Not much is known about Philip. The Lord calls him in John 1:43 and he immediately goes and tells Nathaniel also known as Bartholomew about the Lord.

John 1:43-45

⁴³ The day following Jesus would go forth into Galilee, and findeth Philip, and saith unto him, Follow me. ⁴⁴ Now Philip was of Bethsaida, the city of Andrew and Peter. ⁴⁵ Philip findeth Nathanael, and saith unto him, We have found him, of whom Moses in the law, and the prophets, did write, Jesus of Nazareth, the son of Joseph.

- **Bartholomew** – Also known as Nathaniel. He seems to have been a man with some issues with prejudice, John 1:45-46. He was also a man of honesty and deep religious conviction, John 1:47.

John 1:45-47

⁴⁵ Philip findeth Nathanael, and saith unto him, We have found him, of whom Moses in the law, and the prophets, did write, Jesus of Nazareth, the son of Joseph. ⁴⁶ And Nathanael said unto him, Can there any good thing come out of Nazareth? Philip saith unto him, Come and see. ⁴⁷ Jesus saw Nathanael coming to him, and saith of him, Behold an Israelite indeed, in whom is no guile!

- **Matthew** – Matthew was a Jew named Levi. He had been a tax collector for Rome. He was a controversial choice and was no doubt despised by many of the people. But, the Lord called him, saved him and changed his life. Matthew would write the Gospel that bears his name.

Mark 2:14

¹⁴ And as he passed by, he saw Levi the *son* of Alphaeus sitting at the receipt of custom, and said unto him, Follow me. And he arose and followed him.

- **Thomas** – This man is sometimes condemned as a doubter. We do know that he was loyal to Jesus, even to the point of being willing to die with Him (John 11:16). *“Then said Thomas, which is called Didymus, unto his fellowdisciples, Let us also go, that we may die with him.”* He was the only disciple not cowering in fear in the upper room on the day Jesus rose from the dead, (John 20:25). *“The other disciples therefore said unto him, We have seen the Lord. But he said unto them, Except I shall see in his hands the print of the nails, and put my finger into the print of the*

nails, and thrust my hand into his side, I will not believe.” He was a doubter of the unseen, but he was willing to accept the truth when it was revealed to him, (John 20:28). *“And Thomas answered and said unto him, My Lord and my God.”*

- ***James the son of Alphaeus*** – Nothing is known about this man. We do know that his mother was at the cross when Jesus was crucified (John 19:25). *“Now there stood by the cross of Jesus his mother, and his mother’s sister, Mary the wife of Cleophas, and Mary Magdalene.”*
- ***Thaddaeus*** – Nothing is known about this disciple
- ***Simon the Canaanite*** – The word Canaanite translates as a word means “zealous”. He was probably idealistic, proud, radical, outspoken, fiery and fearless.

Judas Iscariot – Judas was the only disciple to come from Judea. He was the treasurer of the group, but he was a thief and a miser. Judas does teach us a valuable lesson. He teaches us that it is possible to look saved and act saved and not be saved at all.

B. Their Natures

These men give us hope today. The fact that Jesus was able to use these men with all their weaknesses and failures lets me know that He can use me too.

These men lacked spiritual understanding.

They lacked humility.

They lacked faith.

They lacked commitment.

They lacked power.

These men were always getting into trouble; missing the point or Christ's teachings; lashing out at people who were different; saying the wrong thing; walking away from their commitment to Jesus; among other failures and problems.

In spite of their weaknesses, the Lord used these men to turn the world upside down for His glory. If He can use them, surely He can use us too!

Close:

Jesus took these ordinary men, saved them by His grace and made something special out of their lives. He wants to do the same thing in you and me.