

Marks

Daily Prayer ■ Weekly Worship ■ Bible Reading
Giving Time, Talents & Resources
Spiritual Friendships ■ Service In & Beyond the Church

of Discipleship

July 31, 2022

Day 1: Mark 3:20-21

and the crowd came together again, so that they could not even eat.

Jesus has gone through an intense period of time, healing and preaching. He then calls the men who would become the 12 disciples and they and Jesus travel further, until they reach Capernaum. Upon arriving, the crowds who have been following Jesus again surround Him. The crowds are interested in Him as a healer and miracle worker. His real work (the cross) has yet to come and Jesus does not want the people to see Him as just a miracle worker. For this reason Jesus keeps telling those he has healed to keep silent about what He did for them.

Question: How did you first become interested in Jesus?

Challenge: How has your interest deepened over the years?

Scripture: Mark 3:1-19

Day 2: Mark 3:22

When his family heard it, they went out to restrain him, for people were saying, 'He has gone out of his mind.'

It seems that Jesus' family is trying to downplay the accusation that the scribes will level against Jesus. It is better to be not in your right mind than possessed, or worse, actually working for the prince of evil.

Question: Why would they think Jesus had gone out of his mind?

Challenge: Would you rather be found guilty and be called crazy or be guilty but in your right mind?

Scripture: Romans 8:24-34

Day 3: Mark 3:22-26

And the scribes who came down from Jerusalem said, 'He has Beelzebub, and by the ruler of the demons he casts out demons.' And he called them to him, and spoke to them in parables, 'How can Satan cast out Satan? If a kingdom is divided against itself, that kingdom cannot stand. And if a house is divided against itself, that house will not be able to stand. And if Satan has risen up against himself and is divided, he cannot stand, but his end has come.'

The irony of having the scribes question Jesus is not lost on the readers. The scribes are the ones who should be the most familiar with the Law and its interpretation. They were considered to be very learned and intelligent. Jesus simply uses common sense to refute them. The scribes have seen the signs but refuse to acknowledge what they are seeing. They think they are being loyal followers of Moses by claiming Jesus is healing because he is in league with Satan. They also hope their claim will turn the crowd against Jesus instead of praising him. They cannot deny that power has gone out from Jesus so they try to discount the work by saying it comes from an evil power.

Question: Can Satan cast out Satan - why or why not?

Challenge: Have you seen or heard of something that happened that is God at work but others have tried to put a secular reason for the event?

Scripture: Matthew 12:24-34

Day 4: Mark 3:27

But no one can enter a strong man's house and plunder his property without first tying up the strong man; then indeed the house can be plundered.

The scribes are using the fact that the man had a demon that was cast out as proof that Jesus is in league with demons. They reason that only a stronger demon can cast out a weaker one, so Jesus must be the stronger one. What they forget is that evil cannot destroy evil because the destroyer and the destroyed are one. They make a more important mistake in ignoring the fact that God is stronger than any demon. It is more logical to assume that God would want the person to be free from the demon, not another demon. God gives life not evil. The forces of evil just bring death.

Question: Have you ever had something taken from your home? How did you feel and how did you respond to the event?

Challenge: Is this saying in verse 27 true?

Scripture: Luke 11:16-26

Day 5: Mark 3:31-32

Then his mother and his brothers came; and standing outside, they sent to him and called him. A crowd was sitting around him; and they said to him, 'Your mother and your brothers and sisters are outside, asking for you.'

The family (which cannot move from the edge of the crowd to the front) sends a message and demands that He come with them. In this time one had certain responsibilities if you were a family member. A person with a family had to consider how their action would affect the rest of the family, not just them self. Jesus' family is worried that He may not only get Himself in trouble but His problems with the officials would spill over into their lives as well. Read the account of the blind man healed in John to see how the blind man's actions affected his parents.

Question: Why didn't the crowd allow the family to get closer?

Challenge: What has kept you away from Jesus in the past?

Scripture: John 9

Day 6: Mark 3:33-34

And he replied, 'Who are my mother and my brothers?' And looking at those who sat around him, he said, 'Here are my mother and my brothers! Whoever does the will of God is my brother and sister and mother.'

Jesus is not trying to be overly harsh to his family but is conveying the fact that in the kingdom of God family obligations will be based not upon birth but on faith in Jesus as Lord. We are brothers and sisters in Christ and have obligations to each other. Our actions do not just affect us alone. At the cross Jesus reunited his spiritual family with his physical one.

Question: Why doesn't Jesus mention a father?

Challenge: What do think of the image of a church as a family?

Scripture: John 19:25-27