



The Book of Mark

Session 4: Mark 3:7 – 4:34

The last three weeks we've looked at what it takes to start following Jesus on the road to discipleship. We've accepted the authority of Jesus and we've acknowledged our sin. In this session we will start getting an idea of what it looks like to actually walk on the road Jesus leads us on.

Read Mark 3:7-19

- Jesus makes a clear distinction between the crowds and the calling of “the twelve”.

Question: What sets the disciples apart from the crowds following Jesus?

- If we commit our lives to following Jesus, it can be easy to fall into a way of living that treats Jesus like an add-on, living our lives when it's convenient to follow him. Real discipleship will require an intense program that you lay down your pursuits and follow Jesus.

Question: Think about this thought: if you were to pursue true discipleship, what would you stand to lose? Are you ok with that?

Read Mark 3:20-35

- Mark bounces from the theme of Jesus and demons to Jesus and his true family and back again. The four stories together form a whole, all driving at one main idea. That the very demons cast out validate his identity and his mission. The scribes attempt to invalidate Jesus's ministry by saying he does his miracles by Satan.

Question: Do you think Jesus was pointing at how can a kingdom can stand divided? How does that even affect your own home? Spiritually, financially, emotionally?

- Jesus hits the teachers of the law right between the eyes with Mark 3:29. They attributed Jesus's healing to Satan's power as to the Holy Spirit.

Question: What is the significance of that verse today? Why is it important for us to be obedient to the Spirit's voice and leading?

Important! If you're worried about whether or not you've committed the unforgivable sin, you can be sure you haven't committed it. Your heart is sensitive to the conviction of the Holy Spirit, and you are chasing Jesus.

Moving to Mark 4, we're going to find one of the most interesting kinds of teaching we get from Jesus – parables.

Read Mark 4:1-20

- Think about the four soils. If you're a believer or just getting started learning about Jesus, chances are you've passed the first soil test where discipleship doesn't take root. You're now living your discipleship journey in one of the latter three.

Question: Which of the 3 kinds of soils after the first is your spiritual journey? Describe a time in your life where your faithful journey struggled to take root. What cares of the world have hindered your role as a disciple for Jesus?

- We live in an era, particularly in the U.S., where we've come to expect our lives to make a big impact. Our professions, our talents, our churches. We want it all to make a difference in the world.

Read Mark 4:21-34

- It is easy to fall into a habit of thinking that the goal of our discipleship is to change the world. Yet Jesus describes the growth of the kingdom of God to be world changing.

But notice what Jesus likens each of his disciples to: not a whole city, not the whole harvest, and not the whole tree. Instead, the kingdom grows with the small contributions of many parts; a single lamp, a single grain, a single mustard seed.

Question: How is your road to discipleship contributing in a small way to God's greater kingdom? Every person plays a role whether big or small. Are you ok living out your part in your everyday ordinary life without fame or kudos?

Your assignment: Will you continue to follow Jesus even if it means a lifetime of obscurity? Promise yourself and God you will play a small part in building the Kingdom. You will stay the course.

Next week: Read Mark 4:35 – 5:43