

MARK 3:13-35

REVIEW...

- **Mark** – the Gospel to the Gentiles – showing Jesus as the servant of all - **Mark 10:45**
- **MARK 1:1-13 – THE BEGINNING OF JESUS' MINISTRY**
 - The Gospel – Good News of salvation – is all about Jesus Christ!
 - John the Baptist came preparing the way for Jesus... Jesus came to John to be baptized...
- **MARK 1:14-45 – JESUS' MINISTRY IN GALILEE**
 - The message of Jesus' ministry... repent and believe in the Gospel
 - The power of Jesus ministry... power over the spiritual / physical / sin
- **MARK 2:1-22 – CHALLENGE OF THE SCRIBES AND PHARISEES...**
 - 1st challenge – You sins are forgiven – the healing of the Paralytic man...
 - 2nd challenge – Eating with sinners – If you are sick you go to the doctor...
 - 3rd challenge – Fasting? – not during the wedding! – Not righteous by our works
 - Old vs. New – The Old Covenant gone – Jesus was establishing the New Covenant of Grace
- **MARK 2:1-23 – 3:6... STILL ON THE ATTACK – THE SABBATH**
 - Breaking the Sabbath – the disciples 'harvested' corn to eat...
 - Man was not made for the Sabbath – but the Sabbath was made for man – day of rest
 - Jesus is Lord of the Sabbath – the Sabbath was a shadow meant to point to Jesus!
 - Healing on the Sabbath – the man with a lame hand...
 - The religious leaders put their 'rules' above the welfare of a man
 - If it right to do good or evil on the Sabbath – better to do good – heal!

THE 12... vs. 13-19

- **ALL NIGHT IN PRAYER...**
 - The Apostles were not chosen lightly – Jesus spent all night in prayer to decide - **Luke 6:13**
 - Chosen so He might send them out to preach – to have power over sickness / spiritual
 - Sent out – Apostollos...
 - The word 'sent' is literally – Apostle – one who is sent (*missions*)
 - I love this – often when we think of missions we think of foreign countries
 - Yet Jesus here sends out the Apostles to their own country
 - **God prayerful chose us – so that He could send us out to share the Gospel!**
 - **Not necessarily to other countries - it can be to your backyard – to your neighbor!**
 - **People need to know about Jesus – how can they know if we don't tell them**
 - Sent out with power...
 - Jesus had shown the disciples He had power over the spiritual / sickness / sin
 - Now He would send them out with that same power...
 - **John 14:12 - "The truth is, anyone who believes in me will do the same works I have done, and even greater works."**
 - **God sends us out in power – so we might do even greater works than He did...**
 - **What could be greater than healing / casting out demons / raising the dead...**
 - **If you heal – they will get sick again / if you raise the dead – they die again one day**

- The greater work – is giving the Gospel – bringing eternal life that never fades away

- THE 12 APOSTLES...

- o The Apostles names are listed 4 times in the New Testament...
 - **Mark 3:13-19 / Luke 6:12-16 / Acts 1:13**
 - In all 4 lists Peter is first and Judas is last (*he is missing – dead - in Acts 1:13*)
- o The names of the 12...
 - **Simon Peter** – Simeon means to hear / Peter means rock
 - The most unstable/emotional of all the disciples
 - The one who walked on water – and sank / the one who denied Jesus
 - But Jesus knew he would become – by a work of Grace – a rock – unmovable!
 - **Andrew** – Manly – macho (*brother of Peter*)
 - Previously a disciple of John the Baptist – left John to follow after Jesus
 - We often read of him bringing people to Jesus / Andrew brought Peter to Jesus
 - **James** – (*Jacob*) heal catcher – dirty sneaky thief (*brother of John*)
 - **John** – God is gracious (*James and John were the sons of Zebedee*)
 - Sons of Thunder – Should we call down fire - **Luke 9:54**
 - o We often think of John being the Apostle of Love – A gentle man...
 - o Jesus called him and James the Sons of Thunder!
 - o They wanted to cook a village cause they refused to let them enter
 - The inner core – the 3... Peter/James/John
 - o The 3 always seemed to be with Jesus... Even when no one else was
 - o Resurrection of the little girl / Mount of Transfiguration / Garden of Gethsemane
 - o Especially in light of how they were used after the resurrection
 - o The assumption is that they were special – more important...
 - o I don't think they were special... I think they were "special"...
 - o If you have kids who always get into trouble – where are they?
 - o Jesus kept them close – because they always got into trouble
 - **Philip** – Lover of horses (*from Bethsaida – town of Peter and Andrew*)
 - **Nathaniel** called Bartholomew – Gift of God (*companion of Philip*)
 - **Thomas** – the twin (*best know for doubting the resurrection of Jesus*)
 - **Matthew** – Gift of Yahweh (*the tax customs agent of Capernaum*)
 - **James** the son of Alphaeus – the 2nd of the Apostles named James
 - **Judas** the brother of James is called Lebbaeus – also called Thaddaeus
 - Both names for Judas mean – large or big hearted...
 - **Simeon** - the Zealot it called Simon the Canaanite (*same word in Hebrew*)
 - The zealots were a violent group who wanted to overthrow Roman rule
 - **Judas** Iscariot – the one who would ultimately betray Jesus...

- NOT WHO YOU WOULD EXPECT...

- o So the disciples were...
 - Peter (*whom denied Jesus*) and his brother Andrew, James and John (*the Sons of Thunder*), Philip and Nathaniel (*both friends of Peter and Andrew*), Thomas (*who doubted*), Matthew (*who was a corrupt customs agent*), the brothers James and Judas

(who apparently was big hearted), Simeon (who wanted to overthrow Roman rule of Israel), and Judas (the one who betrayed Jesus)!

- Quite the list – if you saw them walking down the street...
- You might cross to the other side to avoid them!
- Yet it was these men that God used – these were the disciples of Jesus
- The men that God called to start the church – to bring the Gospel to the World!
- o Not the ones we would have chosen...
 - If I was to pick 12 men to disciple and teach to reach out and change the world
 - I would pick the best, the brightest, the richest, the most popular...
 - I would pick movie stars, politicians, the wealthy, the best educated...
- o The VERY ordinary...
 - The Apostles were from nowhere – from the province – from the “Bukid” ...
 - They weren’t from great cities of the world – “Europe or the US”...
 - They were from the little province of Judea – no one important came from Judea
 - They weren’t even from the capitol Jerusalem – they were from a small village
 - They were nothing extraordinary – “tubo workers / tricycle drivers”...
 - They weren’t the best educated (*or perhaps educated at all*)
 - They were not the influential, the wealthy, handsome, or powerful...
 - They were ordinary fishermen, sinners, and the like
 - The very last people you would ever expect God would (*could*) use!
- o Not the ones you would expect...
 - Yet they are ones God choose to use to turn the whole world right side up!
 - You might be thinking that God could never use you...
 - Thinking that you don’t have the right education – you have no money
 - You might think you’re only from the Bukid – not famous or influential...
 - What you may not realize is that you just gave yourself the same qualifications...
 - As the very disciples that Jesus choose to use to transform the World!
 - God wants to use you – not just to reach this community – but the world!

BLASPHEMY OF THE HOLY SPIRIT... vs. 20-30

• THE CHALLENGE... vs. 20-21

- o It was at this point Jesus taught the Sermon on the Mount – **Matthew 5-7**
 - Not recorded in the book of **Mark** – focused on the actions not teachings of Jesus
 - When He was done He returned to a house (*likely Simon Peter’s home*)
 - There a great multitude gathered around – so they could not even eat food!
- o The Scribes come down from Jerusalem – completely opposed to Jesus by this point...
 - **Matthew 12** tell us Jesus had just healed a man who was blind and mute
 - A miracle such as had never been seen in Israel – many therefore believed in Him...
 - The Scribes were compelled to answer how Jesus could have performed this miracle
 - So they credited Jesus’ power to satan (*beelzebub*) the ruler of demons...

• A KINGDOM DIVIDED... vs. 22-27

- o Jesus answered them in parables – can satan cast out satan...
 - Every house kingdom, house, even satan - if divided - will not stand

- If a nation goes to war with itself we call it – a civil war
 - No nation can stand a civil war, its doomed if it doesn't stop fighting itself
 - The same holds true for a city or even a home – or satan
 - If you are divided within you stand no chance of victory without!
- If satan casts out satan (*logically*) – how will his kingdom stand
 - Jesus' point is that if satan is in the midst of a civil war – he's doomed
 - What the Scribes were suggesting made no sense - why would satan fight himself...
- o The parable of the Strong Man...
 - You can't rob the house of a great man – unless you first tie him up
 - Jesus is not working with satan - You would not have to steal from a friend
 - If He was working with satan He could borrow or take whatever He wanted...
 - But if you wanted to steal from a strongman (*satan*)
 - You would first have to bind him up before you plundered his house...
 - Since Jesus is opposed to satan He has to bind him before He can plunder
 - Plunder – *dia-harpazo* – through snatching up
 - What is satan's house – a fallen sinful world
 - How did Jesus bind satan – through the power of the cross
 - What is the plunder that Jesus takes from satan's house – us!
 - **Jesus came to earth to bind satan through the work of the cross so he might save us!**
- **FOR JESUS OR AGAINST JESUS... MATTHEW 12:30**
 - o In a great twist Jesus turns their own accusation against the Pharisees
 - The Scribes were opposed to Jesus – therefore they were on satan's side (**John 8:44**)
 - If you are not for Jesus – then you are against Him...
 - If you are not drawing people to Jesus – then you are scattering them away...
 - o There is no grey – there is no middle ground...
 - **Often people think that they can stand on the line...**
 - **They don't want to believe in Jesus – live for Jesus – but they aren't against him**
 - **They think there is some kind of middle ground - not for or against**
 - **If you are not for Jesus – then you are against Him – there is no middle ground**
- **BLASPHEMY OF THE HOLY SPIRIT... vs. 28-30**
 - o Any sin can be forgiven – but the blasphemy of the Holy Spirit
 - o The unforgiveable sin (*what is it?*)
 - The Scribes knew that Jesus was from God – but because He threatened their power...
 - The Scribes had credited the work of the Holy Spirit to satan
 - The Scribes had hardened their hearts over and over again till they could not believe
 - **John 12:39 – “Therefore they could not believe...”**
 - Knowing the truth about Jesus – and still rejecting Him – is the unforgivable sin...
 - o Practically what does that mean for you and me:
 - **If we reject the work of the Holy Spirit in our lives – over and over – hard heart**
 - **If we refuse to believe in Jesus – to be forgiven of our sins**
 - **Then there is no hope of salvation for us – there is only one way to heaven – Jesus**
 - **The unforgivable sin is to die without knowing Jesus as your personal Savior!**

JESUS' FAMILY... vs. 31-35

- MOTHER, BROTHERS...

- o Mary and Jesus' brothers come looking for Jesus...
 - Word of Jesus' encounter with the Scribes was getting around...
 - Concerned for His well being (*perhaps even life*) his family came to 'save' Him
 - **Mark 3:21** – “But when His own people heard about this, they went out to lay hold of Him, for they said, ‘He is out of His mind’.”
 - Rather than going with them – or even talking to them - He raises the question...
 - Who are my Mother and Brother?
 - This was not to insult his earthly mother or brothers – but to teach a truth...
- o Jesus looked around and said – here are my Mother and My brothers!
 - The relationship – bond – in the Body of Christ – can be even closer than family
 - Perhaps you've noticed – brothers and sisters in the Lord closer even than family
 - The bond we have in Jesus – the love of Jesus – making us part of the family of God!
- o Those who do the will of my Father in Heaven...
 - Jesus calls us his family – and he calls us to do the will of our Father in heaven...
 - God has chosen us – not because we are the best or the brightest...
 - But because we are regular ordinary people – sent to go out and share the Gospel
 - Sent out to a world (*starting in our backyard*) that needs to hear...
 - Hear there is no middle ground – you are either for Jesus or against him
 - Tell someone today – give them the hope – tell them about the Love of Jesus!