

Pressure: Crowds, Critics and Family

Mark 3: 13-35

A brief review: Jesus is in trouble with the Pharisees again for healing a man's hand on The Sabbath. Jesus prays for the man with the withered hand and he is immediately healed.

⁶The Pharisees went out and immediately began conspiring with the Herodians against Him, as to how they might destroy Him. **Mark 3:6 NASB**

- The Pharisees 'immediately' went out to plot the murder of Jesus and they did this on The Sabbath; totally violating the 'day'

¹³ And He went up on the mountain and summoned those whom He Himself wanted, and they came to Him. ¹⁴ And He appointed twelve, so that they would be with Him and that He could send them out to preach, ¹⁵ and to have authority to cast out the demons. ¹⁶ And He appointed the twelve: Simon (to whom He gave the name Peter), ¹⁷ and James, the son of Zebedee, and John the brother of James (to them He gave the name Boanerges, which means, "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 Zealot; ¹⁹ and Judas Iscariot, who betrayed Him. **Mark 3:13-19 NASB**

- The Summons from The Summit
 - He summons the 12
 - He appointed them to be with Him
 - He appointed them to be sent out to preach
 - He gives them authority to cast out demons
 - This is more than before; this is a commission.

¹⁵ And to have authority and power to heal the sick and to drive out demons: ¹⁶ [They were] Simon, and He surnamed [him] Peter; **Mark 3:15-16**

- He gives them authority and power to heal and cast out demons

- A look at the 12 coming to Jesus for The Gospel of John.

²⁹ The next day he saw Jesus coming to him and said, “Behold, the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world! ³⁰ This is He on behalf of whom I said, ‘After me comes a Man who has a higher rank than I, for He existed before me.’ ³¹ I did not recognize Him, but so that He might be manifested to Israel, I came baptizing in water.” ³² John testified saying, “I have seen the Spirit descending as a dove out of heaven, and He remained upon Him. ³³ I did not recognize Him, but He who sent me to baptize in water said to me, ‘He upon whom you see the Spirit descending and remaining upon Him, this is the One who baptizes in the Holy Spirit.’ ³⁴ I myself have seen, and have testified that this is the Son of God.”

³⁵ Again the next day John was standing with two of his disciples, ³⁶ and he looked at Jesus as He walked, and said, “Behold, the Lamb of God!” ³⁷ The two disciples heard him speak, and they followed Jesus. ³⁸ And Jesus turned and saw them following, and said to them, “What do you seek?” They said to Him, “Rabbi (which translated means Teacher), where are You staying?” ³⁹ He said to them, “Come, and you will see.” So they came and saw where He was staying; and they stayed with Him that day, for it was about the tenth hour. ⁴⁰ One of the two who heard John speak and followed Him, was Andrew, Simon Peter’s brother. ⁴¹ He found first his own brother Simon and said to him, “We have found the Messiah” (which translated means Christ). ⁴² He brought him to Jesus. Jesus looked at him and said, “You are Simon the son of John; you shall be called Cephas” (which is translated Peter).

⁴³ The next day He purposed to go into Galilee, and He found Philip. And Jesus said to him, “Follow Me.” **John 1:29-43 NASB**

- So, Andrew and Peter and (some say James or John) find the Lord.

⁴⁴ Now Philip was from Bethsaida, of the city of Andrew and Peter. ⁴⁵ Philip found Nathanael and said to him, “We have found Him of whom Moses in the Law and also the Prophets wrote—Jesus of Nazareth, the son of Joseph.” ⁴⁶ Nathanael said to him, “Can any good thing come out of Nazareth?” Philip said to him, “Come and see.” ⁴⁷ Jesus saw Nathanael coming to Him, and said of him, “Behold, an Israelite indeed, in whom there is no deceit!” ⁴⁸ Nathanael *said to Him, “How do You know me?” Jesus answered and said to him, “Before Philip called you, when you were under the fig tree, I saw you.” ⁴⁹ Nathanael answered Him, “Rabbi, You are the Son of God; You are the King of Israel.” ⁵⁰ Jesus answered and said to him, “Because I said to you

that I saw you under the fig tree, do you believe? You will see greater things than these.”⁵¹ And He *said to him, “Truly, truly, I say to you, you will see the heavens opened and the angels of God ascending and descending on the Son of Man.” **John 1:44-51 NASB**

- Now Philip joins up and he brings Nathanael to the Lord.
 - Nathanael is dumbfounded by the power of Jesus.
 - Jesus tells him that he hasn't seen anything yet! (v50-51)
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- So, we have 12 that Mark tells us Jesus chose.
 - James and John are brothers.
 - Peter and Andrew are brothers.
 - Matthew and James (The less) are brothers.
 - Phillip is a friend of Andrew and Nathanael is a friend of Philip.
 - Nathanael is also known as Bartholomeu.
 - As Larry Norman would describe the disciples, They were “a band of un-schooled ruffians and a few old fishermen.”

²⁰ And He came home, and the crowd gathered again, to such an extent that they could not even eat a meal. ²¹ When His own people heard of this, they went out to take custody of Him; for they were saying, “He has lost His senses.” ²² The scribes who came down from Jerusalem were saying, “He is possessed by Beelzebul,” and “He casts out the demons by the ruler of the demons.” ²³ And He called them to Himself and began speaking to them in parables, “How can Satan cast out Satan? ²⁴ If a kingdom is divided against itself, that kingdom cannot stand. ²⁵ If a house is divided against itself, that house will not be able to stand. ²⁶ If Satan has risen up against himself and is divided, he cannot stand, but he is finished! ²⁷ But no one can enter the strong man's house and plunder his property unless he first binds the strong man, and then he will plunder his house.

²⁸ “Truly I say to you, all sins shall be forgiven the sons of men, and whatever blasphemies they utter; ²⁹ but whoever blasphemes against the Holy Spirit never has forgiveness, but is guilty of an eternal sin” — ³⁰ because they were saying, “He has an unclean spirit.”

³¹ Then His mother and His brothers arrived, and standing outside they sent word to Him and called Him. ³² A crowd was sitting around Him, and they said to Him, “Behold, Your mother and Your brothers are outside looking for You.” ³³ Answering them, He said, “Who are My mother and My brothers?” ³⁴ Looking about at those who were sitting around Him, He said, “Behold My mother and My brothers! ³⁵ For whoever does the will of God, he is My brother and sister and mother.” **Mark 3:20-35**

- They are back at Andrew and Peter’s house now.
 - So many people crowded around the place that they could not even have a meal.
 - Jesus’ friends were coming to get Him, saying “He is out of His mind.” (v 21)
 - Enter the scribes. They call Him Beelzebub - The Lord of the flies or Beelzebub-The lord of the ‘dung’.
 - They claimed that Jesus was possessed and is casting out demons by Satan’s power.
 - Jesus corrects them (v23-30). The house divided among itself cannot stand. He is more powerful than the ‘strongman’! Authority over the devil.
 - Blasphemy-evil speaking, slander, and insults toward God.
- Blasphemy against God is a sin against His Majesty and detracts from His holiness. The willful, conscious and intentional rejection of the gift of salvation is blasphemy against the Holy Spirit and is the only sin that cannot be forgiven. – Mounce’s Expository Dictionary.
 - The sin of the scribes and Pharisees is not just slander; it is far worse than that.
 - Their sin is that in the very presence of God’s grace, love and power in action, they not only rejected it but ascribed it to the Devil.
 - They are branding the Holy Spirit’s working as the activity of the Devil.
 - And sadly, these comments are coming from the well informed and well educated religious leaders.
- The Family tension:

²¹ When His own people heard of this, they went out to take custody of Him; for they were saying, "He has lost His senses." **Mark 3:21 NASB**

- They thought Jesus had 'lost it'. They thought He was 'mad'.

³¹ Then His mother and His brothers arrived, and standing outside they sent word to Him and called Him. ³² A crowd was sitting around Him, and they *said to Him, "Behold, Your mother and Your brothers are outside looking for You." **Mark 3:31-32 NASB**

- They came to take Jesus home.
- Imagine how Mary must have felt. Imagine how His brothers felt.
- Imagine how Jesus must have felt about His families' thoughts toward Him.