

What is the first thing you think of when I say 'politics' / 'social media' / 'onomatopoeia' ....

Ok here's the real one- what comes to mind when you hear the word '**disciple**'?

For many of us, it stirs the idea of 'super-christian', or 'select-few-Jesus followers'

Negative association in most people today-

We equate that **Discipleship = Doing**

While disciples definitely 'do', the reality is that discipleship is primarily about

**Discipleship= Being**

Vance Pitman- *"Following Jesus is not about doing things for Jesus,*

*It's about being with Jesus so he can do things in and through our lives."*

In our text today we will see Jesus being approached by different people for different reasons.

They may even exemplify the pattern of some of our relationships to Jesus,

but ultimately Jesus will Commission a group to not only do, but be with Him

**Mark 3:7-10** Jesus departed with his disciples to the sea, and a large crowd followed from Galilee, and a large crowd followed from Judea, <sup>8</sup> Jerusalem, Idumea, beyond the Jordan, and around Tyre and Sidon. The large crowd came to him because they heard about everything he was doing. <sup>9</sup> Then he told his disciples to have a small boat ready for him, so that the crowd wouldn't crush him. <sup>10</sup> Since he had healed many, all who had diseases were pressing toward him to touch him.

Crowds came from every direction, far and wide

It's not that they want Jesus, but something *from* Him.

They see Him not as Messiah, but as a *means* to get what they want.

Once their need is met, they leave/ if their need is not met, they leave

They were never really after Jesus

**People today still recognize they have a deep need, but often fail to realize how deep**

Most will acknowledge that something is off- but few will make that deep journey

As a result, here's what happens: **they settle for the superficial**

If you only think the problem is your sobriety, your toxic relationship patterns, your financial illiteracy, your health...you can fix all of that and still end up in the same place- 'something is not right'

**John 4:13-14** Jesus said, "Everyone who drinks from this water will get thirsty again. <sup>14</sup> But whoever drinks from the water that I will give him will never get thirsty again. In fact, the water I will give him will become a well<sup>[1]</sup> of water springing up in him for eternal life."

What we need is Jesus (His guidance and Spirit that can truly heal the wounds of life)

**Mark 3:11-12** Whenever the unclean spirits saw him, they fell down before him and cried out, “You are the Son of God!” <sup>12</sup>And he would strongly warn them not to make him known.

The demons weren’t trying to pay Him homage, but to thwart His ministry.

Jesus has authority over them not only to expel them, but to silence them.

Strongly warned them/ strictly ordered- *epetimaō*= rebuke (they didn’t really have a choice)

Q: Why did Jesus silence the demons when they said that he was the Son of God?

Practical Answer:

Jesus's idea of Messiah is different than the popular idea that the people had.

His idea of Messiah was one of sacrifice and love. And a cross at the end of it.

The Jews idea of Messiah was a king who conquered the armies.

And so if the rumor was to go out that the Messiah was here, there would be rebellions and uprisings.

It was not yet the time Jesus had to educate the people of what the true idea of Mesiah.

Spiritual Answer:

This revelation is something you have to grasp for yourself by revelation of HIS Spirit

Stop trying to get closer to Jesus by taking roads He hates (palm reading, horoscopes)

Here’s the uncomfortable reality-

**Acknowledging Jesus yet still not abiding with Jesus is the habit of demons**

I am not saying you might be a demon, that’s not the way it works.

But the point is to cause us to reflect on this: who am I modeling?

Do I get my idea of Christianity, of discipleship, from God and His word, or from culture.

Am I a church goer but not a Jesus follower?

Do I believe God exists, Jesus is King, but live as though I don’t believe?

**James 2:19-20** You believe that God is one. Good! Even the demons believe—and they shudder.

<sup>20</sup>Senseless person! Are you willing to learn that faith without works is useless?

Jesus is about to make a strategic move- He will depart from the crowds

(Those who see Him as a means to an end; Those who acknowledge Him yet don’t abide with Him),

And do one of the most history altering hikes ever-

**Mark 3:13-15** Jesus went up the mountain and summoned those he wanted, and they came to him. <sup>14</sup>He appointed twelve, whom he also named apostles, to be with him, to send them out to preach, <sup>15</sup>and to have authority to drive out demons.

In v7 He went *down* to the sea, that’s where the people were, where the need was.

But now He ascends to the mountain top. Why?

To focus on the few who will be able to reach the many.

The 12 have a symbolic significance-

The restoration of the 12 tribes of Israel (God’s people) with Him as their leader

Jesus is establishing a new people, a new family.

**Matthew 19:28** Jesus said to them, “Truly I tell you, in the renewal of all things, when the Son of Man sits on his glorious throne, you who have followed me will also sit on twelve thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel.

Although Jesus called these 12 apostles (sent ones) to a specific assignment He did not call the rest of us, the principle carries over to us-

**Jesus invites us to a life of coming to Him, being with Him, going out on behalf of Him, and overcoming through Him**

**Come** to Him- Maybe you’ve been far away, wayward...COME

**Be with Him-** *witness His work, learn from Him, find rest and joy in Him, suffer with Him*

**John 15:4** Remain in me, and I in you. Just as a branch is unable to produce fruit by itself unless it remains on the vine, neither can you unless you remain in me.

**Go-** ‘to be with Him...to send them out!’

Dustin- “you have to really believe that if People die without Jesus they’re going to hell”

**Overcome-** Not just given authority, but authority to do good (drive out demons)

The church, Christians, should do more than just talk about the power of God, it should be a community that displays evidence the power of God.

We have the task of standing up against and confronting the evils of this world, in whatever arena of life we find ourselves in.

The temptation for us will be to retreat or to overlook the evil in our midst.

**Apathy is the devil’s weapon.**

**Mark 3:16-19** He appointed the Twelve: To Simon, he gave the name Peter; <sup>17</sup>and to James the son of Zebedee, and to his brother John, he gave the name “Boanerges” (that is, “Sons of Thunder”); <sup>18</sup>Andrew; Philip and Bartholomew; Matthew and Thomas; James the son of Alphaeus, and Thaddaeus; Simon the Zealot, <sup>19</sup>and Judas Iscariot, who also betrayed him.

This is not the best trained, most prestigious group.

They are an unimpressive and unusual bunch

The 12 are not chosen because they would be the best examples for us.  
In fact, it seems almost like the opposite is true. They are more often bad examples.

William Barclay-

*It is significant that Christianity began with a group. The Christian faith is something which from the beginning had to be discovered and lived out of fellowship. The whole essence of the way of the Pharisees was that it separated men from their fellows. The very name pharisee means 'the separated one'. The whole essence of Christianity was of that it bound man to their fellows and presented them with the task of living with each other and for each other. Further, Christianity began with a very mixed group. In it, the two extremes met. Matthew was a tax collector and therefore an outcast. He was a renegade and a traitor to his fellow countrymen. Simon the Cananean is correctly called by Luke, Simon the Zealot; and Zealots were a band of fiery, violent nationalists who were pledged even to murder and assassination to clear the country of foreign yoke. The man who was lost to patriotism and the fanatical patriot came together in that group, and no doubt between them there were all kinds of backgrounds and opinions. Christianity began by insisting that the most diverse people should live together, and by enabling them to do so because they were all living with Jesus.*

**When ordinary people come together in Christ, they become world changers**

God is still using regular people to change the world-

Both in doing good, but most importantly in sharing good news

This is the most honorable task ever commissioned

**Encompassing Thought to tie it all together-**

**The mission of Jesus:**

***To save people from sin and restore the broken***

**The means to accomplish it:**

***His own death and resurrection***

**The method to carry it out:**

***You. Me. Us.***

**2 Corinthians 5:17-20** Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has passed away, and see, the new has come! <sup>18</sup>Everything is from God, who has reconciled us to himself through Christ and has given us the ministry of reconciliation. <sup>19</sup>That is, in Christ, God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and he has committed the message of reconciliation to us.

<sup>20</sup>Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, since God is making his appeal through us. We plead on Christ's behalf, "Be reconciled to God."

## **Two Invitations**

If you are a disciple of Jesus:

**You can be the best disciple you've ever been by  
dwelling with Jesus always and telling of Jesus often**

Jesus calls people to follow Him, to come with all their weaknesses and ignorance and pride and frailty, and to learn from Him and then go out and proclaim what they have seen and heard.

Charles Spurgeon- *live in such a way that men may recognize that you have been with Jesus*

If you have not yet decided to follow Jesus:

**Only in Jesus will you ever be who you deeply long to be  
and who you were created to be**

\*\*\**CALL UP WORSHIP TEAM*

BULPEN-

Beyond the shore- Jess is calling us

V7 to the sea;

The desperate went to Him

V13 up the mountain

The disciples went with Him

**Go to Jesus. Be with Jesus. Be with Jesus' disciples. Go out for Jesus. Overcome through Jesus.**

Those who are in need of His touch no longer wait for Him but throw themselves upon Him

People respond by hearing, which is why Jesus strategically chooses the 12

**Romans 10:14-17** How, then, can they call on him they have not believed in? And how can they believe without hearing about him? And how can they hear without a preacher? <sup>15</sup>And how can they preach unless they are sent? As it is written: How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news. <sup>16</sup>But not all obeyed the gospel. For Isaiah says, Lord, who has believed our message? <sup>17</sup>So faith comes from what is heard, and what is heard comes through the message about Christ.

V13 Jesus creates a distinction between those who follow Him because they want Him to do something for them, and those who are called to follow Him for a task.

The call is twofold (V14)

To be with Jesus-

To go out on behalf of Jesus- their communion and companionship with Him is meant to empower them to do service that benefits others. To be conduits of Jesus' touch.

The task of preaching and having power over dark forces is not limited to the 12

Mark 5:19-20; Mark 9:38-39

What was unique to the 12 was the call to be with him. Now, post resurrection is our call also.

This next section will include an excited response from vast crowds, a frightened response from demons, a frightening response from the Jerusalem leaders and a worried response from Jesus family.

Marks point is to lead us to ask ourselves, WHO IS JESUS? Is He working by the Spirit of God or against Him?

Judas would betray Him; Peter would deny Him, Thomas would doubt Him, James and John would seek the prestige of following Him rather than the humility, and all of them would misunderstand Him and eventually desert Him

Jesus alone was to be our example to follow.

To be with Jesus also means to share in His adversity. But even in that, we are fulfilling our calling, not detoured from it.

**2 Corinthians 4:10-11** We always carry the death of Jesus in our body, so that the life of Jesus may also be displayed in our body. <sup>11</sup>For we who live are always being given over to death for Jesus's sake, so that Jesus's life may also be displayed in our mortal flesh.

Thomas Aquinas (priest, theologian and philosopher in the 1200's) is reported to have had a meeting with the then Pope. He walked in to find him counting a large sum of money. The pope told him "See, Thomas, the church can no longer say, 'Silver and gold have I none' (Acts 3). Aquinas replied 'True, holy father, but neither can she now say, 'get up and walk'"

The 12 men that Jesus chose had no special qualifications at all. They were 12 ordinary men.

They were not only called to be with him, but to send them out. They themselves had to be won in order to win others

Jesus equipped them with two things. Message and power.

There is a sense in which you can acknowledge Jesus is 'something different', a big deal, and still miss the essence of who He truly is and why He's come. This was the issue of the crowds.

To be with Jesus is to learn from Him, to imitate him,

Thaddeus= Judas the son of James (Greek and Jewish name; also, probably doesn't want to go by Judas)  
John 14:22 "Judas not Iscariot"

Bartholomew= Nathaniel- Bartholomew not a name (Son of Talmai); always follows Philipp in the order

Peter- after claiming he'd die for Jesus he denies Jesus

James and John- Known for their fiery attitude (sons of thunder); James becomes first disciple to lay down his life,  
John becomes the disciple of love

Andrew- Peter's brother

Philip- bringing all kinds of people to see Jesus

Bartholomew- can anything good come from Nazareth' to 'you are the one'

Matthew- tax collector for Rome turned disciple

Thomas- "twin" from doubt to belief

James-

Thaddaeus-

Simon- the zealot, fought against Rome

Judas- betrayed Jesus

**Revelation 21:12** The city had a massive high wall, with twelve gates. Twelve angels were at the gates; the names of the twelve tribes of Israel's sons were inscribed on the gates.

**Revelation 21:14** The city wall had twelve foundations, and the twelve names of the twelve apostles of the Lamb were on the foundations.

**2 Corinthians 4:1** Therefore, since we have this ministry because we were shown mercy, we do not give up.

**2 Corinthians 4:16** Therefore we do not give up. Even though our outer person is being destroyed, our inner person is being renewed day by day.