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Mark 3:7-35

Recognized and Misunderstood

Jesus encounters growing popularity and increasing opposition. In this chapter, watch how the crowds, Jesus' disciples, his family members, and the religious leaders react strongly for him or against him. Look for what Jesus does to multiply his ministry. Observe how he makes clear his identity and the true source of his power.

Read Mark 3:7-12

1. What reasons might Jesus have for choosing the seaside for his teaching?
2. How does Mark emphasize the size of the crowds that are following Jesus?

On the map on page 127, locate the areas from which the crowds come. How has Jesus' ministry grown since Mark 1:28?

3. Why is Jesus drawing such large groups?

What pattern in dealing with unclean spirits emerges (verses 11-12)?

4. How does this compare with Jesus' dealing with an unclean spirit in Mark 1:23-26?
5. Why would Jesus not want publicity from the unclean spirits?

Read Mark 3:13-19

6. What does Jesus appoint the twelve apostles to do?

What is significant about the order of these three things?

7. To which three disciples does Jesus give additional names?

To whom do we usually give nicknames?

What does ***Sons of Thunder*** suggest about the personalities of James and John?

Note: Watch for times later in the narrative when Peter, James, and John appear as a select group.

8. What other special notations are made about the disciples?

*Note: **Levi** (2:14) and **Matthew** are the same person. A **Zealot** (3:18) was a member of a Jewish political party that opposed paying taxes to Rome.*

Read Mark 3:20-30

9. Why doesn't Jesus have time to eat?

What do his friends think about this?

10. What accusation do the scribes from Jerusalem make against Jesus?

What things has Jesus done that require supernatural power?

11. How does Jesus rule their accusation as illogical (verses 24-26)?

12. What further claim is Jesus making in verse 27?

Who is the strong man whose house is being plundered?

Note: Jesus has been driving out Satan's demons.

13. How have Jesus' accusers blasphemed against the Holy Spirit (verse 30)?

What is the source of Jesus' power (1:10-11)?

14. What are the works of Jesus meant to reveal?

What do his accusers say they reveal?

Note: God deals with women and men by the Holy Spirit. As long as people say that the goodness of God is the evil of Satan, they will not come to God, repent, and receive God's forgiveness. They cut themselves off from God.

Read Mark 3:31-35

15. Describe the scene in this paragraph.

16. What does Jesus teach is the basis of a relationship with him (verses 34-35)?

In this chapter, who meets this relationship requirement and who does not?

SUMMARY

1. What positive and negative effects of Jesus' activities in chapters 1 and 2 do you see in chapter 3?

2. If you were one of the twelve disciples, what warning and challenge would you remember from what happens in verses 20-35?

3. How does this warning and this challenge apply to you?

CONCLUSION

Like a stone flung into a pool of water, the ministry of Jesus has increasing repercussions. The people squeezed into a home become great crowds (2:2, 3:7 and following). Jesus' opponents who were thinking to themselves that he was blaspheming (2:6) now openly accuse him of Satanic activity. In this hostile environment, Jesus says that those sitting around him listening to him have a personal relationship to him more important than the physical ties of a human family.