

Disciples of the King – Mark 3:7-21

Overview

The first five verses of this passage show Jesus at the height of his popularity. Vast crowds were following him including many who had travelled hundreds of miles. The sheer volume and intensity of the crowd was alarming even to Jesus who requested use of a boat to teach from for his own safety. Jesus proceeds to climb a nearby mountain from which he calls the 12 disciples. There are three things we learn about being a disciple of Jesus from this passage:

- 1) Chosen *by Him*
- 2) Chosen for *relationship*
- 3) Chosen for *mission*

Each of these aspects fulfils great longings that exist in every heart; to be wanted, to be loved and to have purpose. In verse 13 the moment Jesus calls out the twelve Mark comments that Jesus called those he *desired*. And that is precisely how we are all called to God on account not of our own goodness, worth or merit but entirely due to the love and desire of God.

John 15: 16 – “you did not choose me but I chose you”

Ephesians 1: He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world... in love he predestined us for adoption as sons through Jesus Christ

The disciples were a very ordinary, unspectacular bunch called on an extraordinarily spectacular journey. Someone might upon reading this passage ask the question ‘why did he choose Judas Iscariot to be his disciple; truth is I do not know, but an even harder question to answer is this, why did Jesus choose me?’

"If I ever reach heaven I expect to find three wonders there first, to meet some I had not thought to see there second, to miss some I had expected to see there and third, the greatest wonder of all, to find myself there." John Newton

The next thing that Mark records is that Jesus called the disciples to *be with him* they are chosen for relationship, before they are given any task or mission they are drawn into a wonderfully intimacy with Christ. Disciples of Jesus are those who walk with him, enjoy him, know him and are coached by him. Disciples of Jesus are those are enjoying ‘being’ before ‘doing’. He longs for our friendship; he desires our affection and love. Indeed ‘we love because he first loved us’ (1 John 4:19).

And finally He chose his disciples for mission. The twelve were also known as ‘apostles’ meaning ‘sent ones’. Jesus sent his disciples into the world to proclaim the gospel and cast out demons, doing the very works that He did. In the same way we too as His disciples have been sent out to reveal the love of Christ to those we encounter.

Questions

Why is it so wonderful to know that God chose us before the foundation of the world?

We are all called by name, God knows your name and calls you to Him, how has this truth affected how you pray? How you worship?

Why do we all too easily default into ‘doing for Jesus’ as opposed to ‘being with Jesus’?

How can we draw nearer to Him and enjoy more time with him?

What is our mission? What does it mean for us to be sent by Jesus, where we live and work?