

3.8.15 Mark 3:7-19 Twelve are appointed

INTRO:

- *Ted Williams is regarded as one of the greatest players in baseball history.
- *He served in WWII, then again in Korea as a marine pilot.
- *He believed that "If there is a god, he's not a good person."
- *And he wasn't a man who appeared to be committed to his family.
- *When asked what he wanted to be his "legacy" he said.. "I want to be immortal."
- *By that, he meant, fame that would last.
- *When he died in 2002 at 83, his head was separated from his body and both are frozen and stored at a company called Alcor...the process is called Cryonics.
- *Technically they say he is not "frozen"...but he is stored at negative 124 degrees...I think he's frozen.
- *Here is what Alcor says about itself: "We seek to prevent loss of information within the brain that encodes memory and personal identity, which is the true boundary between life and death."
- *"Dying is a process, not an event. The purpose of cryonics is to intercept and stop this dying process within the window of time that it may be reversible in the future. The first few minutes of clinical death are certainly reversible, even today. There are good reasons to believe that this window will extend further in the future...Cryonics is a belief that no one is really dead until the information content of the brain is lost, and that low temperatures can prevent this loss."
- *They hope that someday science will be able to "reboot" their brains and using their DNA regrow their bodies.
- *You have to hope that they don't develop the ability to "reboot" your brain but not the ability to regrow your body...that would be a bad scenario.
- *Here is what the cryonics crowd are saying in essence:
- *"We don't know if you can, but we have no where else to turn for hope...future scientists...please save us!"
- *Followers of Christ...hope for eternal life, we hope for a "resurrection of our minds, bodies, ourselves.
- *There is a profound difference between the eternal life they hope for and the kind we hope for...they are trusting in science to give them more quantity of life.
- *We are putting our trust in Christ to give us **his** quality of life...not more of what we have already...more of what he has.

*Life in the Kingdom is without doubt going to go on forever, how could God's life in us die...he is eternal...when his life enters ours...we are not going to die.

*But God's life is not just "long" it is "good"...it is a loving, joyful, blessed life that endures forever.

*It is important for us to see that Jesus is offering us something more than quantity.

*It is relationship with God that begins now and doesn't end.

*The idea in the church that the gospel is **primarily** about "extending our lives" has given rise to many problems and some errors.

*For instance: "Praying a prayer so that we will keep living when we die" rather than transferring our trust from self to Christ so that we will begin a new kind of life now that will extend into eternity.

*And the belief that a person can belong to Christ and never show any evidence over time of having God's life in him or her....to remain an unchanged even though claiming to be "born again."

*Jesus is not spiritual "Cryonics"....He is not selling "extended life warranties" to people.

*He is announcing that his Kingdom is at hand and people can enter it by faith now.

*Jesus was announcing a different kind of life...God's quality of life that is eternal in its quantity.

Mark 3:7 Jesus withdrew with his disciples to the lake, and a large crowd from Galilee followed. 8 When they heard all he was doing, many people came to him from Judea, Jerusalem, Idumea, and the regions across the Jordan and around Tyre and Sidon. 9 Because of the crowd he told his disciples to have a small boat ready for him, to keep the people from crowding him. 10 For he had healed many, so that those with diseases were pushing forward to touch him.

*Again and understandably, people were crowding around to be healed.

*They did not understand the purpose of the healing was to give credence to his announcement of the Kingdom being among them.

*The announcement that God's life was available now.

*As they rushed towards Jesus they were eager to gain more "time" or "health"...

*They did not think through the fact that...all who were being healed would someday be "unhealed"...they would die.

*Not that I would have acted any differently if I were in their shoes...If I had the chance to be healed...I would have taken it.

*But if Jesus was just about extending life, it was a short-term fix.

*God had not come to us merely to give a few people a few more years...but to announce the Kingdom...life with God.

*We are told to pray, and pray to earnestly, and in faith for what we want from God.

*This includes...healing, extension of life for ones we love, and other normal and natural requests that we have.

*I encourage you to ask God to heal, to bless, to grant your requests.

*There was nothing wrong with these people coming to Christ to be healed...obviously or he would not have healed them.

*The problem was in them missing the bigger picture of what Christ had come to give them.

*Clearly God is honored when we ask him to meet our needs, heal us, extend lives...it fact, he is one who has told us to ask.

*However, when he does not grant our requests...we should have great confidence that he has good reason not to answer them.

*This means we can pray with humble boldness (he will not trick us and give us what is bad for us).

-If God were a great trickster no sane person would ever pray, you could very well curse yourself if you did.

-Fortunately for us, God is not a game player.

*We can pray in confidence because God uses prayer to bring about his will...prayer matters.

*We can then live in greater confidence after we have prayed, knowing that whatever happens next we would agree with ourselves if we had all the information God has.

*These folks did not yet understand...the physical miracles were to give evidence of his authority to make his kingdom announcements.

*The next verse we see that the demons understood more than the people around Jesus about why he had come.

*They knew he was the Son of God...the Savior, not merely a physical life extender.

11 Whenever the evil spirits saw him, they fell down before him and cried out, “You are the Son of God.”

*This was likely their vain attempt to gain some kind mastery over him.

*The knowledge of a person's name or identify was believed to confer some power over them.

*Maybe these demons believed this...

*I mean they are foolish enough to rebel against God...no telling how many other foolish things they believe.

*Maybe they were trying to imitate Jesus and his authority.

*When addressing demons Jesus would ask, "What is your name...then he would exert power over them."

***But this is not the power of verbalization, but the verbalization of power.**

*If the President utters these words, "You are pardoned"

-A person can walk freely out of a prison that very day, no matter what they have done.

*You may see that happen and believe in some magic power of the verbalization of words...but in reality what they experienced was the verbalization of power.

*If you go to a prison, and say "You are pardoned."

*You will get a laugh at best...there is no power in the mere verbalization of words...there is however power that can be verbalized with words.

12 But he gave them strict orders not to tell who he was.

*Why?

*Because he did not want demons giving testimony for him...he would speak for himself.

*He was taking authority over them, shutting their vile mouths.

*They are ruined beings and Jesus was right to take authority over them.

13 Jesus went up on a mountainside and called to him those he wanted, and they came to him.

*Luke 6:12 says he made his selection after a night in prayer...this is super important stuff in the strategy of the Savior.

*He selected out 12 who formed the nucleus of his master plan.

14 He appointed twelve — designating them apostles — that they might be with him and that he might send them out to preach 15 and to have authority to drive out demons.

*Apostle comes from a word that means "to send out"

*Means a representative, envoy, messenger.

*There is no question as to the meaning of twelve...this is not a happy coincidence...this is his sovereign plan.

*Just as there were 12 tribes of Israel...this is the beginning of the new Israel...the new people of God...the Church.

*So here we see his plan...in principle the same plan applies to us:

1. They were to be with him
2. They were to announce him
3. They were to demonstrate his power

*God's way has never been coercion..."convert or die."

-That is man's way...the way of ISIS and other aggressive forms of religion.

*It has never been sarcasm...trying to shame people into change..."believe or you are stupid (disbelieve or you are stupid)"

-That is man's way.

*It has never been asserting my will over yours using guilt manipulation..."you must believe this, you must do this or you are wrong, unspiritual, not one of us."

-That is man's way.

***God's way has always been these three things we find here:**

-Presence

-Invitation

-Power

*Much of Jesus' time was taken up with training these 12 and helping them to understand this three-part plan.

*We will return to these shortly.

*First, let's look at the 12 he selected.

16 These are the twelve he appointed: Simon (to whom he gave the name Peter); 17 James son of Zebedee and his brother John (to them he gave the name Boanerges, which means Sons of Thunder); 18 Andrew, Philip, Bartholomew, Matthew, Thomas, James son of Alphaeus, Thaddaeus, Simon the Zealot 19 and Judas Iscariot, who betrayed him.

1. Simon was given the nickname "The Rock" though he hardly was at that time.

2. James and John were called "Thor" or at least that is my translation..."Sons of Thunder"

-Thunder is a loud, and often annoying sound.

3. Simon was known as the Zealot, not because of his zeal but more likely he was a member of a radical anti-government, insurgency known as the Zealots.

4. Then there is Judas who has something worse than a nickname...he has a permanent reputation.

*He is forever known as the "one who betrayed Jesus"

*It was a strange group of men our Lord chose to be his disciples.

*Four of them were fishermen

*One a hated tax collector

*Another a member of a radical and violent political party...something like a terrorist.

Here is a really interesting point embedded in this simple narrative:

1. Matthew had worked for the Roman government.

2. Simon sought to overthrow it.

*Matthew would have been a man Simon would have wanted dead...now they are on the same close knit team.

*Of six of them we know practically nothing.

*There was not a preacher or an expert in the Scriptures in the lot.

*Yet it was with these men that Jesus initiated his master plan to change the world.

MAIN APPLICATION:

Look again at his plan and show in principle how it applies to us.

-Presence

-Proclamation

-Power

1. PRESENCE:

-"He called the 12 that they might be with him."

*Your first priority as a follower of Christ is not:

-Be faithful to do or not do something.

-It is not to change the world

-It is not even to serve others

*Your first priority is to "be with him."

*Last week an AF chaplain was describing a time he took his "annual ministry support plan" to his commander for approval.

*The priorities listed included:

1. Taking care of airmen.

2. Self care, taking care of ourselves as a chapel team.

*The budgeting and time allocation that would follow in the next year would flow from these and other priorities.

*The commander said: "I'll approve this if you reverse items 1 and 2."

"Make sure you take care of yourselves spiritually first..."

*Good call on behalf of the commander.

John 15:5 "I am the vine; you are the branches. If a man remains in me and I in him, he will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing."

*Don't over spiritualize this..."remains" means "abiding, continuing relationship."

*Jesus called the 12 so that might be with him...if this didn't happen, nothing of lasting value would happen.

*If you are a Christ follower, he has called you first to the same thing.

*His prime purpose in your life is not to "get stuff done"

*Its not to ensure you "do the right stuff and don't do the wrong stuff."

*It is relationship...I think if we could understand this a bit more than we do...it would prove transformational.

*Establish the objective first, then the process might become clearer...as well as more helpful

*The objective is relationship:

1. You are not checking a box...

-"QT...check!"...although time and intention are important in all relationships.

-You do need to set apart time and to do so intentionally or relationships will not grow because good things will take all the time from the best things.

2. You are not trying to have an emotional experience.

-"Felt God today!"

-"Didn't feel him today!"

*Although emotions are certainly a part of relationships they are not to be chased.

*People who chase them often have very poor and not very lasting relationships.

*Emotions are good servants but poor masters.

-If we are not coming to understand with our minds the will and ways of God...what is valuable to him and how that impacts our values and actions...then no amount of emotional experience will prove transformational.

3. You are not trying to get an "A" in Bible or in prayer...

- Although knowledge is important in relationships, that knowledge is to grow in love not merely to be able to "explain" someone intellectually.
- You do need to know the facts of other person...who they are, what they like, what is important to them...if you are going to relate well to them.
- But gathering factual information is in order to be better positioned to love them.
- *So time, consistency, intention, content, and emotion are parts of any good relationship...this includes relationship with God.
- *QT, prayer journals, Scripture memory plans, Bible reading plans are all good but they are means to an end.
- *Discipline (getting up early to pray, turning off the TV, setting our thoughts in a direction) are servants of our relationship.
- *We say "no" to some things so that we can say "yes" to more important things.
- *Once you have settled that relationship with Jesus is:
 - Possible (this is amazing)
 - Necessary (getting our air hose unkinked)
 - Life (how we were made)
 - Profitable...it is good (we gain because we realign with what is real)
- *Then the processes can be changed, kept...doesn't matter much.
- *The processes for how, when, how much...you read, pray, etc.... are vehicles to get you somewhere.
- *The vehicle is not the destination and when the vehicle stops working you are free to fix it or trade for a new one.
- *Lots of different personalities who approach this topic differently.
- *When the process becomes boring, confusing, unmotivating, unhelpful...or you just don't have one...check your heart first.
- *What is the purpose of the things we do, they are pathways to relationship.
- *Don't be embarrassed or afraid to enlist some help...we all need instructors...this is super important.
- *Much more important than image management.
- *Warning: If you enlist some help in better understanding how to grow in your relationship with Jesus
- *Don't be surprised to discover its not complicated at all..."That's it?"
- Yep, pretty much
- *Manmade religion tends to be very complex...this just isn't...

*It will however take all of your heart, mind, soul, and strength...all of you...but is not complex.

2. PROCLAMATION:

*Said over and over the gospel is not a do or not to do list...It is an announcement of what has already been done.

*He called 12 to be with him, then he sent them to "preach"

*Preach is a word in disrepair...it originally meant to "Proclaim" or to "make an announcement"

*So to "preach the gospel" would have meant in the original "Announce good news."

*I think many in the church are hesitant to announce the gospel because much of what they have seen done is "annoying and pestering people."

*I'm not saying there is not a time for taking risk with people, or that we cannot share the good news with total strangers...I am saying that the norm is going to be in context of our real lives.

*Be with Jesus...

*Be with people...

*If Jesus is important to you, and others become important to you and you to them...then they will be open to Jesus.

*They may not follow him...but you will certainly not annoy them when you tell them who is most important to you if you have developed relationship with them.

3. POWER

*Demonstration.

*For the 12 one of the demonstrations of power was the authority to drive out demons.

*They did not have power...they had authority.

*Back to our presidential pardon example.

*What if I went to prison and with a pardon signed by the president I said "In the name of the president of the US you are pardoned."

*I would not be laughed at, the prisoner would go free...I would not be verbalizing my own power, but the power of the president who had given me authority to verbalize his power.

*The disciples were given this kind of authority.

*Let me give you one of the most widely disagreed on and shocking statements Jesus ever made.

John 14:12 I tell you the truth, anyone who has faith in me will do what I have been doing. He will do even greater things than these, because I am going to the Father.

*The church (God's people gathered in groups across the globe) have reached more, touched more than Jesus did during his 3 or so decades.

*The power of taking authority over demons was illustrative of the authority given to the church....but it was not exhaustive in its description.

*Meaning...exorcism was one example of power...there were and are many, many more.

*I've seen and have myself exercised the authority of Jesus over demons...they complied.

*But to be honest the most impressive shows of real power I have experienced and the kind the world is more baffled by is the power of...

*...forgiveness, people living in community (who should not even be getting along, like Matthew and Simon), sacrifice, faith in the face of suffering, and the like.

*I'm not saying God cannot choose to use you to verbalize his kingdom power over a demon...he may.

*I'm saying, if you do, it will not be the most impressive display of his power available in the world today.

*The world around you is in desperately in need of you and me...

1. To be with Jesus so that he becomes the most important person to us.

-Our hearts follow our investments...we must make sufficient investments in our relationship with Jesus so that he becomes important to us personally.

2. Then to be with others in such a way that talking with them about who is most important to us, is natural.

3. Then to demonstrate the kingdom is here, now...and the gospel is not merely "eternal life insurance" it is the Life of God in our lives now.

-This life is demonstrated by power...expression of his life in our lives.

*It shows up in transformational change in our lives.

*See how it flows?

*Be with him...you will be changed

*Be with others...they will now know who matters to you...announcement of the gospel and evidence of the Kingdom will be natural and obvious.

***Need help learning to be with Jesus...get help...from people: those around you and those who have written good books.**

****We all do what makes sense to us.**

****If being with Jesus is not something we are "doing" then it is because there is a disconnect in our hearts, in our perspective somewhere.**

***Yes, keep doing what you should be doing...but take the time and intention and effort...to investigate your own core.**

***"Why is this disconnect there?"**

***Investigate why it is you don't really believe that being with Jesus is first priority.**

1. I don't really believe in him.
2. I don't really believe it is possible
3. I don't believe it is necessary
4. I don't believe he wants to be with me.
5. I am committed to a process (that isn't working) rather than to a person.
6. I don't believe it "works"...of course it does...find out why you don't believe it does.

***We do what makes sense to us...check your heart and mind first...then you are ready to address your habits more effectively.**

SMALL GROUP NOTES
March 8, 2015 Mark 3:7-19

Intro:

Spiritual Growth is often something that is seen as mysterious, or mystical, or even unattainable. Dallas Willard gives what he calls the "Golden Triangle" of growth. The three legs of the triangle are:

- A. Ordinary Events of life
- B. Planned Disciplines
- C. The Action of the Holy Spirit

These three facets of our lives are where God meets us and how we are transformed into the image of Christ.

Willard wrote...

"Not only is the outcome of our progression in the kingdom not under our control, but we are not told in any systematic way how to do our part in the process. Well, at least we are not told in precise terms— certainly not in formulas. This is because the process is to be a walk with a person." Willard, Dallas (2009-02-06). The Divine Conspiracy (p. 350). HarperCollins. Kindle Edition.

Relationship with Christ is not a formula but neither is it something we cannot choose to affect with our actions and attitudes. Just as in any other relationship, formulas will fail but action, intention, and investment will not.

Discuss how each of these three things affects our growth in relationship with Christ: A. Ordinary events of life, B. Planned Disciplines C. The action of the Holy Spirit.

Read:

Mark 3:7 Jesus withdrew with his disciples to the lake, and a large crowd from Galilee followed. 8 When they heard all he was doing, many people came to him from Judea, Jerusalem, Idumea, and the regions across the Jordan and around Tyre and Sidon. 9 Because of the crowd he told his disciples to have a small boat ready for him, to keep the people from crowding him. 10 For he had healed many, so that those with diseases were pushing forward to touch him. 11 Whenever the evil spirits saw him, they fell down before him and cried out, "You are the Son of God." 12 But he gave them strict orders not to tell who he was. 13 Jesus went up on a mountainside and called to him those he wanted, and they came to him. 14 He appointed twelve — designating them apostles — that they might be with him and that he might send them out to preach 15 and to have authority to drive out demons. 16 These are the twelve he appointed: Simon (to whom he gave the name Peter); 17 James son of Zebedee and his brother John (to them he gave the name Boanerges, which means Sons of Thunder); 18 Andrew, Philip, Bartholomew, Matthew, Thomas, James son of Alphaeus, Thaddaeus, Simon the Zealot 19 and Judas Iscariot, who betrayed him.

Discuss:

1. The crowd continued to follow Jesus in order to get what they believed they needed most, physical healing. How have you seen in your life a propensity to "follow" Jesus in order to get what you want from him rather than to simply have relationship with him?

*Is this wrong/right or does it depend on certain factors?

2. Its clear the Lord's miracles were signs pointing to his announcement of why he came. In fact they were called "signs." Why did they, why do people still, gravitate towards the "signs" rather than being drawn to the Gospel itself?

3. How have you seen/how would you like to see, growth in your love for and gratitude for the Gospel?

4. Do you believe you have encountered the demonic? Sometimes too many details regarding the demonic tend to indirectly glorify them. So without this kind of detail what makes you believe you did?

5. How was it handled? Do you believe it was handled biblically? Why or why not?

6. If no one in your group has had any experience with the demonic, discuss what you believe would be a biblical approach to dealing with a "demonized" person. (Often incorrectly referred to as "possessed.")

6. Why do you think Jesus picked the 12 men he did to be his disciples?

7. There are three "reasons" given for why Jesus called the twelve:

a. That they would be with him

*Why is this principle of utmost priority in our lives?

b. That they would go and announce him

*How have you personally seen or experienced the telling of the Gospel being done in a negative or intrusive manner?

*How have you seen it done in a compelling and invitational manner?

*What were the differences?

*The Gospel is "announcing what has been done for us by Jesus" rather than "telling people what they should or should not do." How would you say that is different from what you have experienced or believed in the past?

c. That they would demonstrate his authority

*Do you believe God's power is really available for his people today?

*If you do, what forms do you think it should or could take?

*People tend to look for certain displays of power to confirm God's existence or presence, what are some of those displays of power?

*What are some "less overt" displays of God's power among his people that might draw others to God?

Apply:

*Is your current "vehicle" (disciplines, Quiet Time methods, Bible reading plans, etc) that is supposed to be carrying you farther along in your relationship with Jesus "working"?

*Do you feel bored, disinterested, stuck, confused, or maybe you are just not doing much of anything to grow right now, why do you believe this might be true?

*Maybe you feel energized in your relationship with Christ. Is this something recent and if so what has happened? If this is ongoing what are some things that have helped you along the way to stay energized?

*Do you believe you need help with:

- a. Perspective: it's not the processes but my beliefs and attitudes that are holding me back.
- b. Processes: the means you are using to grow in your relationship are not helpful
- c. Both

*Look around your group, these are some of the people God has given you to help or to be helped by.

*Nothing is more important than "Being with Jesus." This is not a "solo sport" it is about community. It is both a public and a private endeavor.

*Pray reflectively, together, through this passage of Scripture. Perhaps you could each pray a portion, personalizing it as you go.

Eph. 1:15 For this reason, ever since I heard about your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love for all the saints, 16 I have not stopped giving thanks for you, remembering you in my prayers. 17 I keep asking that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the glorious Father, may give you the Spirit of wisdom and revelation, so that you may know him better. 18 I pray also that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened in order that you may know the hope to which he has called you, the riches of his glorious inheritance in the saints, 19 and his incomparably great power for us who believe. That power is like the working of his mighty strength, 20 which he exerted in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly realms, 21 far above all rule and authority, power and dominion, and every title that can be given, not only in the present age but also in the one to come. 22 And God placed all things under his feet and appointed him to be head over everything for the church, 23 which is his body, the fullness of him who fills everything in every way.

The Gospel of Mark



*"For even the
Son of Man
did not come
to be served,
but to serve,
and to give
his life as a
ransom for
many."*

Mark 10:45

Mark 3:7-10 Jesus withdrew with his disciples to the lake, and a large crowd from Galilee followed. When they heard all he was doing, many people came to him from Judea, Jerusalem, Idumea, and the regions across the Jordan and around Tyre and Sidon. Because of the crowd he told his disciples to have a small boat ready for him, to keep the people from crowding him. For he had healed many, so that those with diseases were pushing forward to touch him.

Mark 3:11 Whenever the evil spirits saw him, they fell down before him and cried out, “You are the Son of God.”

Mark 3:12 But he gave them strict orders not to tell who he was.

Mark 3:13 Jesus went up on a mountainside and called to him those he wanted, and they came to him.

Mark 3:14-15 He appointed twelve — designating them apostles — that they might be with him and that he might send them out to preach and to have authority to drive out demons.

1. They were to be with him

2. They were to announce him

3. They were to demonstrate his power

Mark 3:16-19 These are the twelve he appointed: Simon (to whom he gave the name Peter); James son of Zebedee and his brother John (to them he gave the name Boanerges, which means Sons of Thunder); Andrew, Philip, Bartholomew, Matthew, Thomas, James son of Alphaeus, Thaddaeus, Simon the Zealot and Judas Iscariot, who betrayed him.

Presence

Proclamation

Power

Presence

Our Priority is to "Be with Him"

John 15:5 “I am the vine; you are the branches. If a man remains in me and I in him, he will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing.”

Proclamation

Announcing what Jesus has done

Power

Demonstrating what Jesus has done

**John 14:12 I tell you the truth,
anyone who has faith in me will do
what I have been doing. He will do
even greater things than these,
because I am going to the Father.**

