

HEALING AND CALLING

CORE PASSAGE: MARK 3:7-19

CONTEXT

Have you ever been in a huge crowd, feeling pressed in by people on every side? That's what Jesus experienced at many points in His public ministry. Everyone wanted in on the miracles, the healing, the blessing. Jesus felt compassion for the broken people seeking help. Yet Jesus had also come for something much bigger. In Mark 3, Jesus had begun His mission of salvation for all nations. To address the present problem of huge crowds and to look to the future after His resurrection, Jesus appointed twelve disciples and began preparing them for a lifetime of ministry.

KEY CONCEPT

When Jesus calls, His disciples obey to continue His mission.

As you examine Mark 3:7-19:

- Reflect upon the fact that crowds came to see Jesus for healing, and Jesus showed compassion to them.
- Recognize that Jesus chose and equipped disciples to be with Him, to preach, and to reveal His power.



TIMELINE

Jesus Demonstrates His Authority
in Capernaum (Mark 1:21-34)

Jesus Forgives and Heals a
Paralyzed Man (Mark 2:1-12)

SESSION STUDY: Jesus Appoints His
Twelve Disciples (Mark 3:7-19)

Jesus Heals a Leprous Man
(Mark 1:35-45)

Jesus Teaches About and Heals on
the Sabbath (Mark 2:23-3:6)

Daily Readings

- Day 1:** Mark 3:7-19
- Day 2:** Mark 3:20-30
- Day 3:** Mark 3:31-35
- Day 4:** Matthew 9:18-31
- Day 5:** Matthew 9:32-38
- Day 6:** Psalm 98



Scan this QR code
to access this session's
Scripture passages.

PERSONAL PREPARATION

MARK 3:7-12

JESUS'S MISSION OF HEALING DREW CROWDS.

Circle each mention of the crowds and their size.

7 Jesus departed with his disciples to the sea, and a large crowd followed from Galilee, and a large crowd followed from Judea, **8** Jerusalem, Idumea, beyond the Jordan, and around Tyre and Sidon. The large crowd came to him because they heard about everything he was doing. **9** Then he told his disciples to have a small boat ready for him, so that the crowd wouldn't crush him. **10** Since he had healed many, all who had diseases were pressing toward him to touch him. **11** Whenever the unclean spirits saw him, they fell down before him and cried out, "You are the Son of God!" **12** And he would strongly warn them not to make him known.

GOSPEL CONNECTION

Jesus calls us to follow Him. We are His disciples when we follow, obey, and trust in Him as Lord and Savior, preaching the good news to others.

Key Concept: When Jesus calls, His disciples obey to continue His mission.



Large crowds followed Jesus, those from Galilee, Judea, and places beyond as well, represented in the mention of the other towns: “Idumea, beyond the Jordan, and around Tyre and Sidon” (v. 8). Jesus was attracting all people, not just the Jews. And why were they following Him? “Because they heard about everything he was doing.” They heard about the teaching, the healings, the casting out of demons, and the eating with sinners. Many followed Him because they wanted something from Him, with some believing His message and others maybe not so much. The crowds were so large that Jesus had to get on a boat so as not to be crushed. Everyone wanted to be near Jesus because everyone had a problem they wanted Him to fix. Every human lives in brokenness, and we’re all trying to find something that will satisfy our souls.

What could people hear about what the Lord is doing in and through your life?

People who needed healing from physical ailments came to Jesus, so too did those who needed healing from spiritual ailments or needed demons cast out of them. But demons, knowing who Jesus was, “fell down before him,” proclaiming His identity as the Son of God (v. 11). The unclean spirits feared Jesus because He is the One whom God promised since the beginning. When Adam and Eve were deceived by the serpent and humanity fell, God promised that One would come to crush the serpent (Genesis 3:15). He would save humanity by defeating the forces of evil and the power of sin. The demons recognized what the crowds did not—Jesus is the serpent-crusher—and they were terrified.

As Jesus gathered followers and worked miracles, His face was already set toward the cross. He already knew the suffering and the ultimate victory that lay ahead. The crowds, however, couldn’t have imagined the wonders God had in store to bring about His people’s salvation.

How has Jesus shown Himself to be more than you thought He was at first in your own life?



PERSONAL PREPARATION

MARK 3:13-19

JESUS APPOINTED HIS DISCIPLES TO FURTHER HIS MISSION.

Underline each thing Jesus did that set the twelve disciples apart from His other followers.

13 Jesus went up the mountain and summoned those he wanted, and they came to him.

14 He appointed twelve, whom he also named apostles, to be with him, to send them out

to preach, **15** and to have authority to drive out demons. **16** He appointed the Twelve: To

Simon, he gave the name Peter; **17** and to James the son of Zebedee, and to his brother

John, he gave the name “Boanerges” (that is, “Sons of Thunder”); **18** Andrew; Philip and

Bartholomew; Matthew and Thomas; James the son of Alphaeus, and Thaddaeus; Simon

the Zealot, **19** and Judas Iscariot, who also betrayed him.

THEOLOGY CONNECTION

CALLING: The calling of God to salvation happens in two ways: externally through the proclamation of the gospel and internally through the Holy Spirit working in the heart of the person who hears. Both of these callings are essential, and both work together to bring someone to faith in Christ (2 Timothy 1:8-10).

Key Concept: When Jesus calls, His disciples obey to continue His mission.



This passage is an important moment in the Bible. When Jesus called and set apart the twelve disciples, He laid the foundation for His church. These men, with the exception of one, would carry the good news of Jesus's death and resurrection and His offer of salvation to the ends of the earth.

What Jesus was doing is called discipleship. He invited these men into His life, taught them, and then equipped them to do the same works that He was doing. As Jesus invested in these men, He knew they would change the very course of human history. His followers would become known as "men who have turned the world upside down" (Acts 17:6).

What can you do to start or continue to follow the call God has on your life?

What began with the disciples continues in us today. We who have given ourselves to Christ have been commissioned and sent out to proclaim who Jesus is and what He has done. We have been given authority, and He has promised that nothing can hinder the church from doing the work of God!

How does it make you feel to be called to participate in the same mission the twelve disciples were given?

Jesus's calling and commission of the disciples revealed the heart of God: God wanted to involve His people in His mission. Jesus called disciples because He desired to give those whom He loved a role in the plan of salvation. That desire extended from those first twelve disciples to the church as a whole.

WORD STUDY

APOSTLES: The word used to describe the Twelve in the original Greek is *apostolos*, or "sent ones." This is an apt description of the role given to those twelve, as Jesus appointed them and immediately sent them out on short-term ministry missions. Later, after His resurrection, they would be sent to the ends of the earth.

DESIRES AND CALLING

Read the passages below. Write down the motives of each group of people who came to Jesus, and write down Jesus's intentions for them.

	MOTIVES	JESUS'S INTENTIONS
THE CROWDS (Mark 3:7-12)		
THE DISCIPLES (Mark 3:13-19)		

How can we know when God is calling us to do something for His glory?

Key Concept: When Jesus calls, His disciples obey to continue His mission.



HEAD

How does the calling and commissioning of the apostles challenge your idea of what it means to be a Christian?

PRAYING SCRIPTURE

Read Psalm 98 and thank God for the ways you have seen Him perform wonders and win the victory in your life. Praise God for specific ways He has revealed His righteousness to you. Proclaim to God reasons He has given you to shout for joy!



HEART

How do you see God's love for you in His calling on your life?

PRAYER REQUESTS AND PRAISES



HANDS

How can you participate in God's mission for an unbelieving friend, seeking an opportunity to share Christ with them?



THE CHOSEN DISCIPLES

By Daniel Youngblood

Many historians, Christian and non-Christian, agree that the most influential event in all human history was the life of Jesus of Nazareth and the worldwide movement that He and His followers launched. Following the teachings of their Rabbi, the Twelve launched a global mission that would rewrite the course of history.

Who were these men who turned the world upside down (Acts 17:6)? They weren't that different from many of us. Many were workers from rural regions around Judea with limited education, power, or esteem. They weren't the most knowledgeable, the most spiritual, or the most religiously convicted of the Jews. They were just normal men. We know their names not because of who they were originally but because of who they became after they encountered Jesus Christ, the Son of God.

SPECIALLY CHOSEN . . .

The disciples weren't chosen because they were special. They were special because they were chosen. This was unique to Jesus's disciples. When a young man wanted to train to be a rabbi, he would seek out the teacher he wanted to follow and hope to earn a place among that rabbi's students. Jesus, however, didn't follow the

culture's norms. He sought His students out, and He chose them. Out of the many disciples who followed Jesus, the Twelve were given the designation of "apostle," or "sent one" (Mark 3:13-14). They were specially set apart. It is important to see that the call to follow Jesus comes from Jesus Himself. He does not wait for potential disciples to come to Him. He seeks them out, and He makes the lost, the lowly, the average, and the unlikely into saints through the power of the Holy Spirit.

BY SOMEONE SPECIAL . . .

Do you ever wonder who the Twelve believed Jesus was when they first accepted His call? They could see He was special, but who could have predicted where that call would lead? As Jesus revealed who He is and what He came to do, the Twelve slowly understood that they had been chosen by Someone even greater than they realized.

They heard Jesus claim authority to forgive sins, call Himself Lord of the Sabbath, teach that the kingdom of God had come, and call people to repent. They witnessed Jesus cleanse lepers, make lame men walk, and show His authority over death itself. They ran in fear at His arrest and crucifixion, yet they also saw Him resurrected and touched

the holes in His hands and side. They felt His breath on their faces as He told them to receive the Holy Spirit and go to all the nations to proclaim His name.

After all they saw and heard, the disciples came to believe this Rabbi was no simple teacher. They were chosen by the incarnate God of the universe. The eternal Word, God the Son, the Second Person of the Trinity, had set them apart to be the first ambassadors of His kingdom coming to earth.

No, there was nothing essentially special about those who were chosen, but there was something incredibly special about the One who did the choosing. The reality of Jesus's identity transformed their lives, and that transformation fueled them to go forth and transform the world itself. The same is true of all disciples of Jesus today. The God who loves us has chosen us, and through following Him, we are transformed into something greater than who we were.

FOR A SPECIAL PURPOSE

What does it mean to be chosen? It means God calls people for a purpose and tasks them with a mission. It has always been God's way to choose people made in His image as the means by which He accomplishes His will. God chooses a few out of the many so that through the few His blessings can be multiplied and spread to the many as well. He created Adam and Eve to be fruitful and multiply, filling the earth with His image and ruling His world for His glory, but they sinned, and humanity fell from our first mission. He chose the family of Abraham, the twelve tribes of Israel, to be a kingdom of priests and a holy nation.

No, there was nothing essentially special about those who were chosen, but there was something incredibly special about the One who did the choosing.

His promise was that through this chosen nation, He would bless all the nations of the earth. But Israel broke the covenant and failed in their mission as well.

Jesus Christ came as the fulfillment of Adam's mission and Israel's mission. He is the ultimate Chosen One of God, and as He came to save people from all nations, tribes, and tongues, He calls His followers to come join His mission. Jesus chose the Twelve and sent them out to share the good news of His salvation with all nations. He has chosen us and sent us out to preach the good news in the very same way.

Daniel Youngblood is a middle school Bible teacher at Christ Covenant School in Ridgeland, Mississippi, and a member of Morrison Heights Baptist Church in Clinton, Mississippi. He and his wife, Isabella, married in August 2025. Daniel is pursuing a PhD at New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary and looks forward to a lifetime of teaching God's Word to equip the saints for the work of ministry.