

Following Jesus



MEMORY VERSE: “For God is working in you, giving you the desire to obey Him and the power to do what pleases Him.”
Philippians 2:13

DAY 1

MARK 3:7-12 — Followers from Afar

1. Read verses 7-8. Why was everyone so eager to see Jesus? What attracts you to Jesus?
2. How can great difficulty or physical pain make us more open to the message of Christ? How can it distract us from the message of Christ? What makes the difference?
3. Read verses 8-12. How did evil spirits react to Jesus? How does this account reveal to us the identity and authority of Christ?
4. What is the difference between knowing about Jesus and faith in Jesus?

DAY 2

MARK 3:13-19 — Jesus Chooses Twelve

5. Name the twelve special disciples (apostles) Jesus chose. vv. 13-19 What do these men have in common?

6. Review verse 14. What does Jesus appoint them to do?

7. How does this differ from how we approach discipleship? What can you learn from these responsibilities in your own path for following Jesus?

DAY 3 MARK 3:20-30 — Spiritual Warfare

8. Read verses 20-22. What conclusion did Jesus' family and the teachers of the law make about Jesus and his power?

9. What point did Jesus make to explain that the accusations were ridiculous? vv. 23-27

10. Read verses 28-30. What does Jesus say will be forgiven? What does Jesus say will not be forgiven?

Note: Do not be concerned that you commit this sin by mistake. This sin is giving credit to Satan for the works of God. This comes from someone that cares nothing for God's forgiveness. It never has forgiveness because it never wants forgiveness.

11. Since becoming a follower of Christ, have you suffered rejection from family or friends? How have you handled that? Does it help to know that even Jesus was considered crazy by His family at first?

DAY 4**MARK 3:31-35 — Jesus' Family**

12. How does Jesus describe His true family? What is the application to your life personally?

Note: In other Scriptures we learn that Jesus showed great love and respect for his mother. We also know that later His brothers became His followers.

13. How would you describe the bond between believers? How should we treat our brothers and sisters in Christ?

DAY 5**MARK 3:7-35 — Wrap Up**

14. Does Jesus want to draw large crowds? Are these crowds a sign of success?

15. Following Jesus is about being more like Him. How can Jesus increase in your life and you decrease?

TAKE AWAY

Knowing about Jesus or even knowing He is the Savior is not enough---the evil spirits even know who He is. The question is—Do you believe in Jesus and receive Him as your savior? Talk to Jesus this week about His plans for you!

BLESSING

God's offer is free to all: You can be part of God's family. This is the good news. So repent and believe!

Following Jesus

The miracles Jesus did drew a crowd and the people loved Him. But at the same time the religious leaders didn't know how to categorize Jesus. In Mark 3:7-25 we see that Jesus intentionally left the spotlight to be with God. But it didn't work so well, the crowds followed.

It is impossible to meet Jesus and be neutral about Him. You will either come inside with Him or stay on the outside. The crowds are not neutral; they expect healing and deliverance. The evil spirits are not neutral; they identify, hate, and fear the Son of God. The twelve men

appointed by Jesus to be apostles are not neutral; they have given up everything to respond to His call. Members of His family are not neutral; they doubt His sanity and attempt to stop His ministry. The religious leaders are not neutral; they accuse Him of being empowered by Satan and try to destroy His credibility. As you observe Jesus Christ through Mark's narrative, personal neutrality is not an option. Both Matthew and Luke include these words of Jesus "He who is not with me is against me." What about you? Are you an "insider" or an "outsider"?

Notes
