



### Week Three: Mark 3

#### “The Disciple’s Job Description”

Reading and Study Guide for the week of April 30-May 7, 2023

**Memory Verse for the Gospel of Mark:** *Jesus called the crowd to him along with his disciples and said: "If anyone would come after me, he must deny himself and take up his cross and follow me." (Mark 8:34)*

**This week, read Mark 3.** On Sunday, May 7, Pastor John will preach on the theme, “*The Disciple’s Job Description*” (Mark 3:7-21). As the crowds increased around Jesus, He intentionally drew closer to fewer people as He appointed twelve disciples to be His apostles. As Jesus called the original Twelve to specific tasks, He calls us to follow Him in the same way today.

#### **Some questions to answer and think about this week with your family or Community Group:**

1. What is it like to be lost in a huge crowd (such as in a store, airport, or stadium)?
2. Why did Jesus want to leave? ([3:7](#))
3. Why were the crowds so interested in following Jesus? ([3:7-12](#))
4. What do the details of this story tell us about Jesus’ priorities? ([3:7-12](#))
5. What did Jesus expect of the men He designated apostles? ([3:14-15](#))
6. What was unusual about some of the men Jesus chose? ([3:16-19](#))
7. What area of your life (physical, emotional, or spiritual) needs to be healed by Jesus?
8. How would it make a difference in your spiritual life if you had more confidence in Christ’s power and authority?
9. What need can you bring to Jesus? How could you do so?
10. What difference does it make to you that Jesus chose imperfect people to share in His ministry?
11. From what other more mature believers can you learn?
12. What would be your first step toward learning from a more mature believer in your church?

#### **Life Application Bible Notes**

[3:7-11](#) The evil spirits knew that Jesus was the Son of God, but they had no intention of following him. Many people followed Jesus but didn't understand his true purpose for coming. Some people came for miracles, some came to hear his teaching, but they didn't understand the way of the cross. Knowing about Jesus, or even believing that he is God's Son, does not guarantee salvation. You must also follow and obey him (see [James 2:17](#)).

**3:12** Jesus warned the evil spirits not to reveal his identity because he did not want them to reinforce a popular misconception. The huge crowds were looking for a political and military leader who would free them from Rome's control, and they thought that the Messiah predicted by the Old Testament prophets would be this kind of man. Jesus wanted to teach the people about the kind of Messiah he really was—one who was far different from their expectations. Christ's Kingdom is spiritual. It begins with the overthrow of sin in people's hearts, not with the overthrow of governments.

**3:13** What does it mean to hear the "call" of God? First, God calls you to faith in Jesus. You will know this call by the growing desire in your heart to settle the matter of peace with God speedily. Respond to him—answer with a grateful, "Yes, Lord, I need you!" Second, God calls you to service in Jesus' name. Wherever you are (and sometimes you need to move), whatever you're doing (and sometimes you need to upgrade your skills), God has a place of service for you. Jesus calls you and he wants you. Answer this call thoughtfully, seriously, in consultation with other Christians, saying, "Yes, Lord, I love you and will follow you!"

**3:14** From the hundreds of people who followed him from place to place, Jesus chose 12 to be his *apostles*. *Apostle* means "messenger or authorized representative." Why did Jesus choose 12 disciples? The number 12 corresponds to the 12 tribes of Israel ([Matthew 19:28](#)), showing the continuity between the old religious system and the new one based on Jesus' message. Many people followed Jesus, but these 12 received the most intense training. Jesus did not choose these 12 to be his associates and companions because of their faith; their faith often faltered. He didn't choose them because of their talent and ability; no one stood out with unusual ability. The disciples represented a wide range of backgrounds and life experiences, but apparently they had no more leadership potential than those who were not chosen. The one characteristic they all shared was their willingness to obey Jesus. After Jesus' ascension, they were filled with the Holy Spirit and empowered to carry out special roles in the growth of the early church. We should not disqualify ourselves from service to Christ because we do not have the expected credentials. Being a good disciple is simply a matter of following Jesus with a willing heart.

Mark Study Guide questions and notes are from

