**The Gospel of Mark Series May 5, 2024**

**Mark 3:7 - 19 – Ministry to the Crowds and The Twelve**

Jesus Ministers to the Crowds

* From Sidon (northern point) to Idumea (southern point)  
  was about 175 miles
* People came from great distances to see, hear, touch, and be healed by Christ
  + Ethnically diverse crowds (Jews and Gentiles!)
* So that the people would **not crush Him**, and to enhance the acoustics a bit, Jesus teaches from a boat in the Sea of Galilee
* To authenticate His message, He was healing many people of various diseases
* Demons (unclean spirits) professed His true identity
  + “You are the Son of God” (11b)
  + They would “fall down before Him,” acknowledging His **power and position**
* The demons are not **worshipping Jesus**
* They respect Him and submit to Him
  + James 2:19   
    You believe that God is one. You do well;   
    the demons also believe, and shudder.
* Messianic Secret
  + Jesus commands the demons to **not disclose who He is**
  + Why does Mark continue to emphasize this?
* He has authority over all people, their situations, and the **unseen world**

Ministry to the Twelve

* A **symbolic number** for the Jews
  + There were 12 tribes in the nation of Israel
* Until now, only Simon, Andrew, James, and John were part of the inner circle with Jesus
  + While there were many “disciples” at this point in Jesus’ ministry, many were only interested in what Jesus could do for them

1. “so that they would be with Him” (14b)

* The crowds received some of Jesus’ teaching
* The Twelve would be given much more in depth teaching
* They would know the **motivation** behind the teaching and have a close relationship
* You can’t have a close relationship with a crowd!

2. “send them out to preach” (14c)

* **To proclaim** what Jesus instructed them to do and say
  + - * Luke 9:1–2   
        1 And He called the twelve together, and gave them power and authority over all the demons and to heal diseases. 2 And He sent them out to proclaim the kingdom of God and to perform healing.

3. “to have authority to cast out demons” (15)

* + **Delegated authority** from Jesus to bring the Kingdom of God to people
  + Delegated authority to thwart the plans of Satan and the demonic realm
  + The disciples watched Jesus do spiritual warfare and soon it would be their turn to do the same

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