

- Wife sees Couple across the street. He kisses her goodbye. I don't even know her. – He totally Missed the Point.
- **Jesus is at pinnacle of popularity people missing the point.** Same today.

Mark 3:7-8 ⁷ *Jesus withdrew with his disciples to the lake, and a large crowd from Galilee followed.* ⁸ *When they heard about all he was doing, many people came to him from Judea, Jerusalem, Idumea, and the regions across the Jordan and around Tyre and Sidon.*

- Large crowd. Could be 10, 20, 30 thousand. From all over.
- Peak of popularity. Jesus is a Rock Star. Today popularity means success. # of twitter followers. # of likes. Popularity distorts message to maintain popularity.
- Many leaders actually follow the crowd. Give more of what they want. Not leadership.
- **CHURCH- Don't emphasize something secondary in order to be popular.**
- **JESUS WANTS TO SPREAD THE GOOD NEWS! HE NEEDS WITNESSES.**

Mark 3:9-10 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.*

- People were coming because they wanted physical healing from Jesus.

Mark 6:56 ⁵⁶ *And wherever he went—into villages, towns or countryside—they placed the sick in the marketplaces. They begged him to let them touch even the edge of his cloak, and all who touched it were healed.*

- They come for what they can get from Jesus and not for what Jesus primarily wants to offer them.
- The miracles point to the brokenness of people; They only want physical healing.
- The miracles are hindering His primary purpose. Teaching about the kingdom of God the salvation of people.
- Can't preach because crowd pressing in and focused on touching Him.
- **Jesus pivots to keep the main thing the main thing.** Has his disciples get him a boat so they can't touch Him.

DO YOU WANT TO BE A WITNESS FOR CHRIST?

• JESUS OPPOSES THE SUPERFICIAL WITNESS OF THE CROWD

MARK 3:11-12 ¹¹ *Whenever the impure 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 others about him.*

• JESUS OPPOSES THE DECEPTIVE WITNESS OF DEMONS

- They fell down and cried out. Imagine that gravely, demonic voice of hell.
- **Why? Aren't the demons telling the truth here? Isn't Jesus the Son of God?**
- Yes. Demons understand the trinity better than we do.
- I think the demons intended people to believe Jesus was the son of god according to demons (their god). Because it came from them.
- In very next section (next week for us) Jesus is accused of being possessed by Beelzebul and driving out demons by the prince of demons.
- Though technically telling the truth, they are deceiving people about Jesus.

JESUS WANTS A CERTAIN TYPE OF WITNESS

- But here is His situation:
 1. He's offended the religious leadership and they want to kill him.
 2. The large crowds are filled with people that aren't interested in the main reason He came (to preach) and who he knows will quickly turn against him.

• So, what do you do in this situation? Verse 13

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

Luke 6:12-13 ¹² *One of those days Jesus went out to a mountainside to pray, and spent the night praying to God.* ¹³ *When morning came, he called his disciples to him and chose twelve of them, whom he also designated apostles:*

• Have you ever spent an entire night in prayer?

- Goes on a mountain. Other major mountain events. 10 commandments, Transfiguration. Monumental event.

BECAUSE JESUS WANTS A CERTAIN TYPE OF WITNESS

Mark 3:14-15 ¹⁴ *He appointed twelve^{al} that they might be with him and that he might send them out to preach¹⁵ and to have authority to drive out demons.*

- "Called those he wanted and they came to him." – Out of the large crowd (success?) He chooses 12.
- We rely heavily on mass Media. Think we will reach the crowds, but they aren't as affective as you telling people what God is teaching you and what God has done in your life.
- Twitter followers; likes on facebook. That's the crowd.

THE WITNESS JESUS WANTS ARE DISCIPLES

• Here we see that Jesus called His disciples to three things:

1. Be with Him

- He does want advocates or cheerleaders or salesman. He wants people who know Him. Have been changed by Him and who will go tell people about that.

2. Preach what they learned from being with Him.

3. Empowered over spiritual opposition (exorcism).

- If you've been with Jesus and He sends you out, you can expect He will empower you to serve (God do miracles through you).

Mark 3:16 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 Zealot¹⁹ and Judas Iscariot, who betrayed him.*

- **Not all who follow Jesus are disciples; learners. Experience Him and tell people about it. The crowd followed for the show. This group is large.**

• Jesus doesn't fulfill his mission through the crowd – Popularity.

HE WANTS A CERTAIN TYPE OF WITNESS – A witness who spends time with Him, learns from him, lives with him and shares that experience with others.