

**Valley Bible Church**  
**Sermon Notes for August 28, 2016**

**Fleeing to Focus**  
**Mark 3:7-19**

I. The massive crowd (3:7-12)

-Despite the controversy with the Jewish leadership, Jesus is still a major public figure

A. The diversity of the crowd (3:7-8)

*Jesus withdrew with his disciples to the sea, and a great crowd followed, from Galilee and Judea and Jerusalem and Idumea and from beyond the Jordan and from around Tyre and Sidon. When the great crowd heard all that he was doing, they came to him.*

-After all the controversy, Jesus attempted to withdraw with just those who were desiring to follow Him

-The location of withdrawal was the Sea of Galilee

-Unfortunately, a massive crowd followed Him from diverse locations

-Galilee, Judea, Jerusalem, Idumea, Beyond the Jordan, Tyre and Sidon

-The crowd was following Him because they had heard of all that Jesus was doing

B. The determination of the crowd (3:9-12)

*And he told his disciples to have a boat ready for him because of the crowd, lest they crush him, for he had healed many, so that all who had diseases pressed around him to touch him.*

-This crowd was so overwhelming that Jesus' life was in danger

-Thus, Jesus asked the disciples to prepare a boat

-This was probably a safety boat to provide separation between Jesus and the overwhelming crowd

-Those who had diseases in this crowd were now pressing in on Jesus

*And whenever the unclean spirits saw him, they fell down before him and cried out, "You are the Son of God." And he strictly ordered them not to make him known.*

-Crowd was not only diseased, but demon-possessed

-Once again, these demons were attempting to make Jesus' identity known (Mark 1:24)

-They called Him the "Son of God," which was true

-Similar to God the Father's statement at Christ's baptism (Mark 1:11)

-However, Jesus ordered them to stop

-Jesus did not want demons declaring His message regarding His identity

## II. The ministry changes (3:13-19)

-Jesus did not strategize to work with the Jewish leadership (i.e. Pharisees)

-Jesus did not strategize to work alone and embrace the crowd

-Instead, Jesus chose to delegate His ministry to other men

### A. The purpose of discipleship (3:13-15)

*And he went up on the mountain and called to him those whom he desired, and they came to him.*

-Another attempt to withdraw takes place

-This time the location is on the mountain

-This time it appears to be successful

-Who are the ones “whom he desired?”

-His followers as opposed to enthusiasts who were entertained by Jesus

*And he appointed twelve (whom he also named apostles) so that they might be with him and he might send them out to preach and have authority to cast out demons.*

-Jesus chose 12 specifically and traditionally known as the disciples

-Some bible versions don't have phrase, “whom he also named apostles”

-The title “apostles” is only mentioned here and Mark 6:30 in the Gospel of Mark

-Why did Jesus choose 12?

**-Matthew 19:28** “Jesus said to them, ‘Truly, I say to you, in the new world, when the Son of Man will sit on his glorious throne, you who have followed me will also sit on twelve thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel.”

**-Luke 22:28-30** “You are those who have stayed with me in my trials, and I assign to you, as my Father assigned to me, a kingdom, that you may eat and drink at my table in my kingdom and sit on thrones judging the twelve tribes of Israel.”

-What was the strategy for the 12?

1) That they might be with him

-They would live life with Jesus

-Enter the school of Jesus (Jesus=teacher, disciples=students)

-Jesus=mentor, disciples=interns

-There would be moments of private teaching/discussion

-There would be moments of on-the-job training

-This interaction with Jesus was a qualification for the apostles of the early church

**-Acts 1:21-22** "So one of the men who have accompanied us during all the time that the Lord Jesus went in and out among us, beginning from the baptism of John until the day when he was taken up from us--one of these men must become with us a witness to his resurrection."

2) He might send them out to preach

-Jesus had already been preaching but this was not the end goal

-Jesus wanted these men to learn by doing

3) He might give them authority to cast out demons

-Just as Jesus did miracles to validate the message of the gospel, so also would the disciples multiply this effort

-The rest of the New Testament supports Jesus' strategy

**-Matthew 28:19-20** "Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age."

**-1 Corinthians 11:1** "Be imitators of me, as I am of Christ."

**-Philippians 3:17** "Brothers, join in imitating me, and keep your eyes on those who walk according to the example you have in us."

**-2 Timothy 2:1-2** "You then, my child, be strengthened by the grace that is in Christ Jesus, and what you have heard from me in the presence of many witnesses entrust to faithful men who will be able to teach others also."

B. The people of discipleship (3:16-19)

*He appointed the twelve: Simon (to whom he gave the name Peter); James the son of Zebedee and John the brother of James (to whom he gave the name Boanerges, that is, Sons of Thunder); Andrew, and Philip, and Bartholomew, and Matthew, and Thomas, and James the son of Alphaeus, and Thaddaeus, and Simon the Zealot, and Judas Iscariot, who betrayed him.*

-Peter, James and John were mentioned first in most lists of the 12

-Matthew/Levi the Tax Collector and Simon the Zealot would be unlikely friends

-Tax Collectors worked for Rome while Zealots were Jewish Nationalists who opposed and even harmed Romans

- Simon the Zealot would have automatic hatred toward Matthew the Tax Collector
- Why pick these men?
  - They were not religious Jewish superstars
  - They are a perfect example of **1 Corinthians 1:26-29** “For consider your calling, brothers: not many of you were wise according to worldly standards, not many were powerful, not many were of noble birth. But God chose what is foolish in the world to shame the wise; God chose what is weak in the world to shame the strong; God chose what is low and despised in the world, even things that are not, to bring to nothing things that are, so that no human being might boast in the presence of God.”