

Feb 3rd, 2019**God Chose Foolish Things to Shame the Wise****Mark 3:7-35****BIBLE IN A YEAR READING PLAN**

Jan 27	Exodus 28-29	Jan 31	Exodus 39-40
Jan 28	Exodus 30-32	Feb 1	Leviticus 1-4
Jan 29	Exodus 33-35	Feb 2	Leviticus 5-7
Jan 30	Exodus 36-38	Feb 3	Leviticus 8-10

Lesson Introduction: Over the last few weeks, we have seen how Jesus' ministry caused great controversy amongst the religious leaders of the day. This week, that theme will continue, but we will learn that it was not only the Pharisees that called His ministry into question, but even His own family. We will also consider how Christ assembled an unlikely team upon which He would build the Church, and how Jesus placed the Spiritual family above the earthly family. What we will see throughout this passage, is that Jesus accomplishes His purposes in ways that seem strange to the world, so that He might receive glory above all earthly institutions and constructs.

FOUNDATIONAL TRUTHS OF THE PASSAGE:

- **Those who Christ desire come to Him (V. 13-19)**
- **Christ has power over Satan, and will bring him to his end (V. 22-27)**
- **Rejection and mockery of the Holy Spirit leads to damnation (V. 28-30)**
- **Fellowship with God through Christ supersedes all other relationships (V. 31-35)**

Mark 2:18-3:6

7 Jesus withdrew with his disciples to the sea, and a great crowd followed, from Galilee and Judea 8 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. 9 And he told his disciples to have a boat ready for him because of the crowd, lest they crush him, 10 for he had healed many, so that all who had diseases pressed around him to touch him. 11 And whenever the unclean spirits saw him, they fell down before him and cried out, "You are the Son of God." 12 And he strictly ordered them not to make him known.

13 And he went up on the mountain and called to him those whom he desired, and they came to him. 14 And he appointed twelve (whom he also named apostles) so that they might be with him and he might send them out to preach 15 and have authority to cast out demons. 16 He appointed the twelve: Simon (to whom he gave the name Peter); 17 James the son of Zebedee and John the brother of James (to whom he gave the name Boanerges, that is, Sons of Thunder); 18 Andrew, and Philip, and Bartholomew, and Matthew, and Thomas, and James the son of Alphaeus, and Thaddaeus, and Simon the Zealot, 19 and Judas Iscariot, who betrayed him.

20 Then he went home, and the crowd gathered again, so that they could not even eat. 21 And when his family heard it, they went out to seize him, for they were saying, "He is out of his mind."

22 And the scribes who came down from Jerusalem were saying, "He is possessed by Beelzebul," and "by the prince of demons he casts out the demons." 23 And he called them to him and said to them in parables, "How can Satan cast out Satan? 24 If a kingdom is divided against itself, that kingdom cannot stand. 25 And if a house is divided against itself, that house will not be able to stand. 26 And if Satan has risen up against himself and is divided, he cannot stand, but is coming to an end. 27 But no one can enter a strong man's house and plunder his goods, unless he first binds the strong man. Then indeed he may plunder his house.

28 "Truly, I say to you, all sins will be forgiven the children of man, and whatever blasphemies they utter, 29 but whoever blasphemes against the Holy Spirit never has forgiveness, but is guilty of an eternal sin"— 30 for they were saying, "He has an unclean spirit."

31 And his mother and his brothers came, and standing outside they sent to him and called him. 32 And a crowd was sitting around him, and they said to him, "Your mother and your brothers are outside, seeking you." 33 And he answered them, "Who are my mother and my brothers?" 34 And looking about at those who sat around him, he said, "Here are my mother and my brothers! 35 For whoever does the will of God, he is my brother and sister and mother."

Discussion Section 1: An Unlikely Foundation (V. 7-19)

-What do **verses 7-12** tell us about the popularity of Jesus' ministry? Why was He so popular?

-Why did Jesus command the demons not to make Him known?

-What is significant about how the group of twelve disciples was formed?

-What is surprising about the makeup of the twelve?

Note: *The beginning of this section makes clear that Jesus' ministry began to explode, with hordes of people following Him wherever He went. What seems plain in these verses, is that most people who were crowding around Him were primarily interested in physical healing, rather than cross bearing discipleship. While Jesus did graciously heal many, His primary purpose was and is to create a people for His own possession, that they might proclaim His excellencies (1 Peter 2:9).*

In **verses 13-19**, Christ begins to form such a people, as we see the formation of the twelve. **Verses 13-14** make it clear that it was the initiative of Jesus to form this group. We first see that He **"called to Him those whom He desired, and they came to Him."** This likely refers not only to the twelve, but to a larger group of those who followed Jesus (including people such as **Marry Magdalene, Joseph Barsabbas, and Matthias (Acts 1:21-23)**). From there, we see that **"He appointed twelve (whom He also named apostles)."** These men, chosen by the sovereign initiative of Christ, would make up the foundation of the Church (**Ephesians 2:19-20**).

One of the amazing things about this passage are the types of people Jesus chose to be His messengers. He did not go out and find the top rabbis of the day, or call the most pious of the Pharisees, or the richest residents of Jerusalem. Instead, He **"chose the foolish things of the world to shame the wise" (1 Corinthians 1:27)**. He chose fishermen, a tax collector, a zealot, a doubter. These were hot-headed (**Mark 8:32, Matthew 26:51; 73-75**), self-centered (**Mark 9:33-34**) men, all sinners, and Jesus took them, and created for Himself a team that would spread His Gospel to the ends of the earth. As we consider this rag tag group of men, may we rejoice that Jesus also chose us, calling us from death to life, making us into His servants and messengers (**Ephesians 2:1-10**).

Discussion Section 2: A House Divided (V. 20-30)

-Why did Jesus' family believe Him to be, **"out of His mind"**?

-How does Jesus correct the Pharisees' false assumption that he was possessed by Beelzebul?

-What does this passage teach us about Jesus' power over Satan?

-What does it mean to **"blaspheme against the Holy Spirit"**?

Note: *In this section, we see two groups calling Jesus' ministry into question. First, His family sees His sacrificial way of living, combined with the fact that He continually is making claims of deity, and they simply believe that **"He is out of His mind."** Jesus' commitment to the Father's work was so great, that it caused His family to question His sanity! Christ made plain that following Him would divide households, and His life exemplified this fact (**Luke 12:52-53**). Here again we see how the ministry of Christ appeared foolish to the world around Him, even His own flesh and blood.*

From there, we see the Pharisees accuse Jesus of being possessed by Satan himself! This argument of course made no sense, as Jesus quickly points out that Satan would not be interested in casting out Satan, and that **"If a kingdom is divided against itself, that kingdom cannot stand."** As Jesus tells the parable of strong man, He refers to Himself! He is the strong man, who will bind Satan, and plunder his house. The statement made by the Pharisees points to their hard heartedness. They rejected the power of the Spirit of God at work in Jesus so much so, that they blasphemed against Him. Jesus tells them plainly that the only thing that is unforgiveable is this sort of blatant rejection of God's power which is at work through His Spirit.

Discussion Section 3: The Family of God (V. 31-35)

-What is Jesus ultimately teaching us in the way He interrelated with His family in these verses?

Note: *As we close, we see Jesus make a bold statement, which to the world, surely seems foolish. But what Jesus is teaching us is so important. Far more valuable than any familial relationship on this earth, is a relationship with God through Christ. Although God is the author of the earthly family, our first calling is to His family. Only when He is our treasure above all else can we truly be His disciple. He forms for us a new family, the Body of Christ, and calls us to love them sacrificially as He has loved us.*