

Growth Group Questions for Mark 3:7-19

Opener: Who would you go out of your way to see and why?

1. **Read Mark 3:7-12.** Why does Jesus attract huge groups of followers?
2. **Read Mark 3:8.** This verse is the first mention of people from outside of Israel coming to hear Jesus. How does this contribute to Mark's purpose in writing his gospel? How could this possibly help the work in Rome and other areas?
3. Why do you think Jesus did not want the demons announcing that He was the Messiah (The Son of God), 3:11-12?
4. There were four major religious parties of Jesus' day were the Pharisees, Sadducees, Essenes, and Zealots. Zealots had a "zeal for the law" like the Pharisees, but their beliefs extended to wanting an "armed insurrection" in order to overthrow the occupying forces of Rome and establish "kingdom of God." Jesus chose as apostles both Simon the Zealot and Matthew the tax collector. What does this say to you about Jesus' view of the kingdom of God?
5. In Mark 3:13–18 Jesus calls the twelve disciples. Knowing that Mark views Jesus' coming as the fulfillment of Old Testament expectations, what might be the significance of Jesus choosing twelve men? Note Revelation 21:12–14. Every Jew knew that there were twelve tribes in Israel—or, at least, that there had been. What would Jesus, then, be saying about himself and his ministry by choosing twelve to have authority with him in his work?
6. Are you strengthening your relationship with Christ? Are you fulfilling the role He has called you too? Are you walking in His power?
7. How can we pray for you this week?

Mark 3:7-19 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,^[a] ¹⁹ and Judas Iscariot, who betrayed him.

Revelation 21:12–14 ¹² It had a great, high wall, with twelve gates, and at the gates twelve angels, and on the gates the names of the twelve tribes of the sons of Israel were inscribed— ¹³ on the east three gates, on the north three gates, on the south three gates, and on the west three gates. ¹⁴ And the wall of the city had twelve foundations, and on them were the twelve names of the twelve apostles of the Lamb.

Extra Resource for Lent:

Examine Your Attachments: A Lenten Resource By Lane M. Arnold

Whether you are fasting or limiting an aspect of your life during Lent, use this season as an opportunity to examine your attachments to things other than God. Print out the following questions and use them weekly throughout Lent.

Where has food, social media, or false beliefs become more a comfort than God is a comfort? What's that about for me?

What's that antsy sensation about, a desire to be instantly satisfied? How does that reveal an unwillingness to wait, to hold on a bit longer?

How does a scarcity mindset nibble away at my heart? Where am I trying to ensure I'll have enough? Digging deeper, where does God want to come and heal this scarcity belief system?

How am I lacking trust when grabbing for more by overindulging, just in case there's not quite enough?

What cravings gnaw at me? What is beneath those cravings?

Where do I think God is not going to show up for me? How am I controlling the scene, instead of waiting in surrender for His timing?

What kind, firm, healing words does God say to these broken places where I struggle? When your eyes lock with Jesus' eyes, what is expressed?