

1:10 JOURNEY GROUP DISCUSSION GUIDE

Leaders: Let this page stimulate a discussion of the text... it's OK if you don't cover each question!

Openers:

- 1 When have you been either attracted to or repelled by large crowds? OR: What is something you've done that made your family or friends wonder if you were crazy?

Getting Started:

- 2 What insight, principle, or observation from Sunday's message did you find to be most helpful, eye-opening, or troubling? Explain.
- 3 How has God been speaking to you this past week through your personal devotions in His Word?

Digging Deeper:

- 4 **Read 3:7-12.** How are the common people responding to Jesus in this passage? What do you think motivated the crowds to travel so far to meet Him (v 8)? Why would Jesus not want publicity from the unclean spirits (v 12)?
- 5 **Read 3:13-19.** The call of Jesus brought together unlikely comrades, including former archenemies like Matthew and Simon the Zealot. How has Christ affected your attitude toward those with whom you previously did not associate? Why is it important to be "with" Jesus before being sent out by Him (v 14)?
- 6 **Read 3:22-30.** How does Jesus refute His opponents' accusation that He was in league with the devil? Who is the strong man and who is the robber in v 27? What then is the true significance of Jesus' ministry of casting out demons? What is the relevance of demons to the life of believers today (see Eph 6:10-19)? What is the blasphemy of the Holy Spirit and can believers today commit this sin (v 28-30)?
- 7 **Read 3:20-21, 31-35.** Do you think Jesus was unnecessarily harsh with His family—why or why not? Why would Jesus' family think He was crazy (v 21)? How might you have felt if you were Him? Have your family members ever questioned your sound judgment because of your sincere efforts to live a Christian life? How should Jesus' words in v 33-35 cause us to view other believers? Our families? What are the implications of this teaching for your life?

Sunday, October 4, 2009 • Summit Evangelical Free Church, Alta, IA • Pastor Doug Corlew
Series: *WAY TO GO: Serving & Giving Like Jesus* (Gospel of Mark), Message #4

CROWDS: INSIDERS AND OUTSIDERS

Mark 3:7-35

How does Jesus respond to the pressures and thrills of being surrounded by crowds?

1. He controls _____ (v 7-12)

2. He appoints _____ (v 13-19)

3. He warns _____ (v 22-30)

4. He identifies _____ (v 20-21, 31-35)

Monday, October 5

Read Mark 3:7-12

Reflect also on these passages as they relate to the *crowds* that were demanding Jesus' time and attention. What does Mark want us to learn about the crowd and Jesus' response to them?

Mark 2:4,13; 3:20; 4:1,36

Mark 5:21-34; 6:34,45-46

Mark 8:1-10,34; 9:14-29; 10:1,46

Mark 11:18; 14:43; 15:8-15

"He understands the pressures which we feel when we try to reach out to others as He did. He knows that when you really care about others, you open yourself to troubles virtually incomprehensible to those who do not care. He understands that those who stand with Him are assaulted by a demonized culture which tries to gain mastery. He understands the pressures of a life of faith." — R. Kent Hughes

Tuesday, October 6

Read Mark 3:13-19

Reflect also on these passages as they relate to the calling of the apostles and the grace that was given them. How has God called and equipped you to serve Him? Are you taking time to just "be with Him" - and how is He sending you out (v 14)?

1 Corinthians 1:26-31

Acts 4:1-22 (note v 13)

Revelation 21:9-14 (note v 14)

"What a vast amount of benefit these few men have conferred on the world! The names of a few Jewish fishermen are known and loved by millions all over the globe, while the names of many kings and rich men are lost and forgotten. People who do good to souls are the ones who are 'remembered forever' (Ps 112:6)." —J.C. Ryle

Wednesday, October 7

Read Mark 3:22-27

Reflect also on these passages as they relate to Jesus' parable of the strong man bound and plundered. Thank the Lord for His victory over the enemy on your behalf!

Isaiah 49:24-26

Mark 1:12-13,21-28; 3:11-12; 5:1-13; 7:24-30; 9:14-29

Hebrews 2:14-15; Romans 8:38-39

"In this brief but nuclear parable Jesus recalls the mission of the messianic High Priest to bind Satan... and to rescue captives from cruel warlords... plundering the house of the oppressor and liberating his captives... The mission of Jesus is not fulfilled in compromise or coexistence, but in invading and conquering Beelzebul, the head of the house, binding Satan and plundering his possession." - James R. Edwards

Thursday, October 8

Read Mark 3:28-30

Reflect also on these passages as they relate to Christ's declaration about the forgiveness of sins and His warning of souls lost forever in hell. Ponder the mercy and the justice of the Lord.

2 Chronicles 33:9-13

Hebrews 6:4-12

Hebrews 10:26-31

"We too, this very day, if we come to Christ, may be completely forgiven... Let us not be ashamed to believe that there is an eternal God—an eternal heaven—and an eternal hell. Let us remember that sin is an infinite evil. It needed an atonement of infinite value to deliver the believer from its consequences—and it entails an infinite loss on the unbeliever who rejects the remedy provided for it." - J.C. Ryle

Friday, October 9

Read Mark 3:20-21, 31-35

Reflect also on these passages as they relate to Jesus' response to family members who did not understand His ministry and attempted to stop Him. What does it take to convince *you* to quit doing the will of God?

Nehemiah 6:1-4

Luke 14:25-30

John 9:4

"It is interesting to note the quiet, firm perseverance of our Lord in the face of all discouragements... So let it be with all true servants of Christ. Let nothing turn them for a moment out of the narrow way, or make them stop and look back. Let them take no notice of the ill-natured remarks of enemies. Let them not give way to the well-intentioned but mistaken entreaties of unconverted relations and friends." - J.C. Ryle

Saturday, October 10

Read Mark 4:1-34

As you prepare for tomorrow's message, read through this passage and note what kind of hearts do and do not produce plentiful CROPS in the kingdom of God?