

A Study of the Gospel of Mark
Week 3: Mark 3:7-35 | Sept. 21/22, 2013

**Responding to Jesus Part I:
Do You Trust Him?**



People were amazed at Jesus' words and actions, but now they had a choice. Would their amazement lead them to "repent and believe in the gospel" as Jesus had invited them to do in Mark 1:15? The writer C. S. Lewis once said that Jesus must have been mad or bad or who He claimed to be. [Q] If you were there, what would your response have been?

At the lake | Read Mark 3:7-12.

[Q] What is the biggest crowd you have ever been in? Please describe.

[Q] What crowd problems did Jesus and His disciples encounter in 3:7-12?

[Q] Is it possible to "follow Jesus" for the wrong reasons?

On the mountain | Read Mark 3:13-19.

[Q] In Mark 3:13–19, Jesus calls those He wanted - 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? (See Revelation 21:12–14.)

[Q] According to Mark, why does Jesus call these men? (Mark 3:14)

[Q] What do you learn from this passage about how you are to understand and conduct yourself as a disciple (follower)?

[Q] Do you consider yourself *called*? Why or why not?

In a house | Read Mark 3:20-35.

[Q] How would you explain the response of Jesus' family in verse 21?

[Q] How would you explain the response of the teachers of the law in verses 22 and 30? (See also Mark 3:6.)

[Q] Why did the Lord of the Universe endure accusations of evil and madness?

[Q] In verses 31-35, what does Jesus tell us about who is in His family?

[Q] From verses 34 and 35, what are some practical implications for you?

Extra: Blaspheming the Holy Spirit

The word *blaspheme* in this context means "to deny permanently the authority and claims of the Holy Spirit." – Pastor Jay Abramson

In Mark 3:22, Jesus is accused of being Satan. This is utter blasphemy, for Jesus' authority comes from God, not Satan.

If people reject Jesus, they reject and blaspheme the Spirit and reject the only source of forgiveness.

[Q] How might we see such blasphemy against the Spirit today?

Apply

[Q] As a Jesus follower, you must continuously trust Him. In what ways or areas of your life will you trust Him this week? What difference will this trust make? Be specific.

Talk with other group members about your ideas and commit to praying for one another.

Pray
