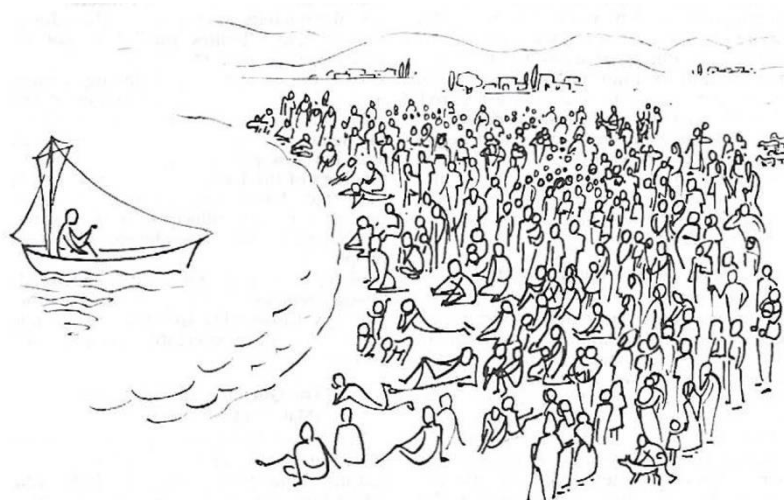


# Life Group Notes for the Week Beginning Sunday 16 January 2022

## Living The Jesus Way – Following Jesus

### Mark 3:1-19



#### Opening

Think back to your childhood (birth to 9 years old). Where were you living and what were Sundays like?

#### The Passage

Read Mark 3:1-7

- Why were the Jews so strict about sabbath observance?
- Verse 2 suggests that Jesus was under surveillance. Why were some people so eager to accuse Him? What did they have against Him?
- By healing on the Sabbath, Jesus was flying in the face of the certain man-made Jewish regulations about what could and could not be done on the Sabbath. What gave Him the right to do this? How does His action here demonstrate the truth of what He said in Mark 2:27-28, just before this incident?
- What was Jesus claiming about Himself by this action? How does this help explain v 6?
- The word “withdrew” in v 7 might suggest that Jesus and His disciples were running away from the danger indicated in v 6. However, Jesus was not someone to run away from controversy. For what other reasons might He have withdrawn on this occasion?

## Read Mark 3:8-12

- Jesus goes from a situation of hostility to one of huge popularity. People either loved Him or they hated Him. How do we account for this contrast?
- There appear to have been quite a few evil spirits around when Jesus walked on the earth. Why do you think this was the case?
- Why didn't Jesus want the unclean spirits to reveal His identity?

## Read Mark 3:13-19

- What specific 3-fold task does Jesus call the twelve to do? (vv 13-15)? To what extent are we called to do the same?
- Why would Jesus appoint someone to be an apostle who was going to betray Him?

## Issues

- It is likely that some of the people who followed Jesus did so just for what they could get out of Him, such as deliverance from sickness or demons. What other reasons might they have had for following Him? How do you think Jesus viewed such folk? Why do you follow Jesus?
- 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?

Tom Wright says that the appointment of the 12 was “one of the most revolutionary acts that Jesus did”. In what way might it be seen as revolutionary?

- There is sometimes a debate between those who emphasize the need for ‘preaching’ in evangelism and those who emphasize the need for ‘power’ (such as healings and exorcisms). What does the passage say about this? Have you ever seen displays of ‘power evangelism’?
- Jesus designated the 12 as “Apostles”. What is your understanding of the meaning of the word ‘apostle’? Are Apostles different from ordinary Christians? Are there Apostles in the church today?
- Is there such a thing as demon-possession in the modern world? Certain Christians believe that some people with severe mental illnesses are possessed by demons. What do you think? What are the dangers of treating a mental health issue as a case of demon possession?
- **Reflection**

Those who follow Jesus are called first “to be with Him” and then “to be sent out”.