

Jesus is King | A Series through the Gospel of Mark

Intimacy with Christ

Text: Mark 3:13b-19

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.

Synopsis: We were made to be with Jesus, and our ministry must flow from intimacy.

And he told his disciples to have a boat ready for him because of the crowd, lest they crush him, for he had healed many, so that all who had diseases pressed around him to touch him. (Mark 3:9-10)
Jesus faced demands. So will you. How do we navigate that?

Jesus Calls Us to Himself

And he went up on the mountain and **called to him those whom he desired**, and they came to him. (Mark 3:13)

Jesus calls us to follow him too. But to do what?

What does a disciple do when following Jesus? What is our goal?

Jesus Redirects Our Purpose

And he appointed twelve (whom he also named apostles) **so that they might be with him** (Mark 3:14a)

What if I asked you what God's purpose for you was?

His calling on your life is to be with Him in deep loving communion.

Our primary calling as Christians is to be in Christ and with Christ.

And this is eternal life, that they know you the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom you have sent. (John 17:3)

What about the needs in the world?

They don't just disappear.

- Jesus WAS faced with needs, and he DID engage them.
- Similarly, we'll always be faced with needs. And...

Jesus Commissions Us to Do What He Did

and he might **send them out to preach and have authority to cast out demons.** (Mark 3:14b-15)

1. to preach (proclaim the kingdom)
2. and have authority to cast out demons (display the kingdom)

We will be doing things with him and for Him.

For we are God's masterpiece. He has created us anew in Christ Jesus, so we can do the good things he planned for us long ago. (Ephesians 2:10 NLT)

Our first and primary calling is intimacy with God.

The apostles returned to Jesus and told him all that they had done and taught. And he said to them, "Come away by yourselves to a desolate place and rest a while." (Mark 6:30-31)

Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit by itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in me. I am the vine; you are the branches. Whoever abides in me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing.
(John 15:4-5)

On this day (Palm Sunday), the church celebrates the triumphal entry of Jesus into Jerusalem...

And they brought the colt to Jesus and threw their cloaks on it, and he sat on it. **8** And many spread their cloaks on the road, and others spread leafy branches that they had cut from the fields. **9** And those who went before and those who followed were shouting, "Hosanna! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord! **10** Blessed is the coming kingdom of our father David! Hosanna in the highest!"
(Mark 11:7-10)

May we prepare a way for the Lord too. How?

1. Where do you need to slow down?
2. Where do you need to reconnect with Jesus?