

A PRAYERFUL DECISION

jkroberts_us@yahoo.com

www.pacolethillsbaptist.org

October 11, 2020

Mark 3:13-19

1. Jesus' ministry was having two effects.

a. The multitudes were growing in size and excitement. Mark 3:7-12

b. The religious leaders' determination to silence Jesus was growing. Luke 6:6-11

On another Sabbath He entered the synagogue and was teaching; and there was a man there whose right hand was withered. 7 The scribes and the Pharisees were watching Him closely to see if He healed on the Sabbath, so that they might find reason to accuse Him. 8 But He knew what they were thinking, and He said to the man with the withered hand, "Get up and come forward!" And he got up and came forward. 9 And Jesus said to them, "I ask you, is it lawful to do good or to do harm on the Sabbath, to save a life or to destroy it?" 10 After looking around at them all, He said to him, "Stretch out your hand!" And he did so; and his hand was restored. 11 But they themselves were filled with rage, and discussed together what they might do to Jesus.

NOTE: Like Jesus, any serious follower of the Lord Jesus Christ is viewed as an enemy and a threat to those who walk in darkness.

2. It is at this point that Jesus selected twelve of His disciples to assume a new role with new responsibilities.

3. Jesus' choice and appointment of the twelve apostles provides some important insights into how God intends the church to function.

I. It was a prayerful choice.

A. Luke's account of this incident states, "It was at this time that He went off to the mountain to pray, and spent the whole night in prayer to God." Luke 6:12

B. Jesus had previously declared, "Truly, truly, I say to you, the Son can do nothing of Himself, unless it is something He sees the Father doing; for whatever the Father does, these things the Son also does in like manner." John 5:19

C. How interested are we in discovering and fulfilling God's will for our lives and our church.

D. The measure of our desire will be reflected in our prayer lives.

E. Knowing that we are functioning within the will of God gives us the confidence we need to live the life God wants us to live.

II. It was a sovereign choice.

A. Jesus, "summoned those whom He Himself wanted, and they came to Him." Mark 3:13

B. The church is the body of Christ, and He is the head of that body.

1. While dealing with spiritual gifts Paul wrote, "But one and the same Spirit works all these things, distributing to each one individually just as He wills." 1 Corinthians 12:11

2. He went on to write, "But now God has placed the members, each one of them, in the body, just as He desired." I Corinthians 12:18

C. Most professing Christians today are church goers, and they have little understanding related to what it means to be the church.

D. Each and every follower of Jesus Christ has been chosen by God and given one or more spiritual gifts related to God's purpose for them within the body of Christ.

III. It was a purposeful choice.

A. He appointed twelve of His disciples as Apostles.

1. "So that they would be with Him." Relating to Him in a special way.

2. "That He could send them out to preach." Representing Him and speaking for Him.

B. Every follower of Jesus Christ lives in relationship with Him so that we can represent Him in the world.

NOTE: What a privileged people we are in that we get to represent Heaven on the earth.

C. Going forward Jesus was going to devote some time to a lot of people, and a lot of time to a few people.

D. It is the same method Paul recommended to Timothy. 2 Timothy 2:1-3

You therefore, my son, be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus. 2 The things which you have heard from me in the presence of many witnesses, entrust these to faithful men who will be able to teach others also.

IV. It was an enabling choice.

A. Not only were they sent out to preach, but they were also given power and authority over the forces of evil that were at work in the world.

NOTE: They were to have authority to cast our demons.

B. The Apostles had a special anointing for that which God had called them to be and to do.

C. In defending the authenticity of his apostleship Paul declared, "The signs of a true apostle were performed among you with all perseverance, by signs and wonders and miracles."

2 Corinthians 12:12

NOTE: This statement makes no sense unless the Apostles were distinctively different in the area of authority and power.

D. You and I also have a special anointing for that which God has called us to be and to do.

1. 1 Corinthians 12:4-7

Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit. 5 And there are varieties of ministries, and the same Lord. 6 There are varieties of effects, but the same God who works all things in all persons. 7 **But to each one is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good.**

2. 1 Peter 4:10-11

As each one has received a special gift, employ it in serving one another as good stewards of the manifold grace of God. 11 Whoever speaks, is to do so as one who is speaking the utterances of God; whoever serves is to do so as one who is serving by the strength which God supplies; so that in all things God may be glorified through Jesus Christ, to whom belongs the glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen.

APPLICATION

1. We should be encouraged by the fact that Jesus chose ordinary men to accomplish extraordinary things.

2. In Acts 4:13 we read, "Now as they (the Jewish elders, rulers, and scribes) observed the confidence of Peter and John and understood that they were uneducated and untrained men, they were amazed, and began to recognize them as having been with Jesus."

NOTE: You and I are temples of the Holy Spirit, the Spirit of Christ, and others should be able to recognize that fact.

3. We must all come to the place where we recognize that Jesus:

a. Has called us unto Himself.

b. Wants to have an intimate, personal relationship with each of us.

c. Has appointed us and enabled us to represent Him. Acts 4:13-14