



September 28, 2023  
Mark 3:7-35

## The Kingdom Brings Divisions

- When the call of God is extended:
  - Some become disciples
  - Some harden their hearts
- In John
  - the light shines in the darkness, and some “loved darkness rather than light because their deeds were evil” (3:19)
- In Luke
  - Jesus says that he has not come to bring peace but division (11:51) and that Satan would sift them all like wheat (22:31)

## Mark 3 The Coming Kingdom Brings Divisions

- The authorities watch Jesus to see whether he will heal on the Sabbath, then make plans to kill him (3:1-6).
- Nevertheless, Jesus extends his healing ministry (3:7-12) and calls the twelve disciples (3:13-19).
- When he goes home, the crowds press about him, but scribes from Jerusalem say, “He has Beelzebul” (3:22), and when his family comes, apparently wanting to take him away, Jesus says that his real family is those who do the will of his Father (3:31-35).

## Withdrawal to the Sea 3:7-12

- These verses serve as a bridge
- 1. Withdrawal to the sea (v 7) and the list of regions from which the crowds came (v 8)
- 2. Instruction to secure a boat (v 9) and report of healing activity (v 10)
- 3. Confession of the unclean spirits (v 11) and silencing of the spirits (v 12)

## Time to Himself

- Jesus often tries to withdraw from the crowds, sometimes unsuccessfully
  - 1:35    2:13    4:35-36
  - 6:31    6:46    7:24
  - 8:13    8:27    9:2
  - 14:32

5

## The Sea of Galilee

- 13 miles long, 8 miles wide
  - 41,000 acres of water
  - Lake Hartwell has 56,000 acres)
- Site of the calling of the first disciples (1:16-20; 2:13)
- Site of teaching (4:1)
- Site of the storm, miracle, and boundary crossing in the coming chapters (4:35-41; 5:1; 5:13; 5:21; 6:45-52; 8:13)

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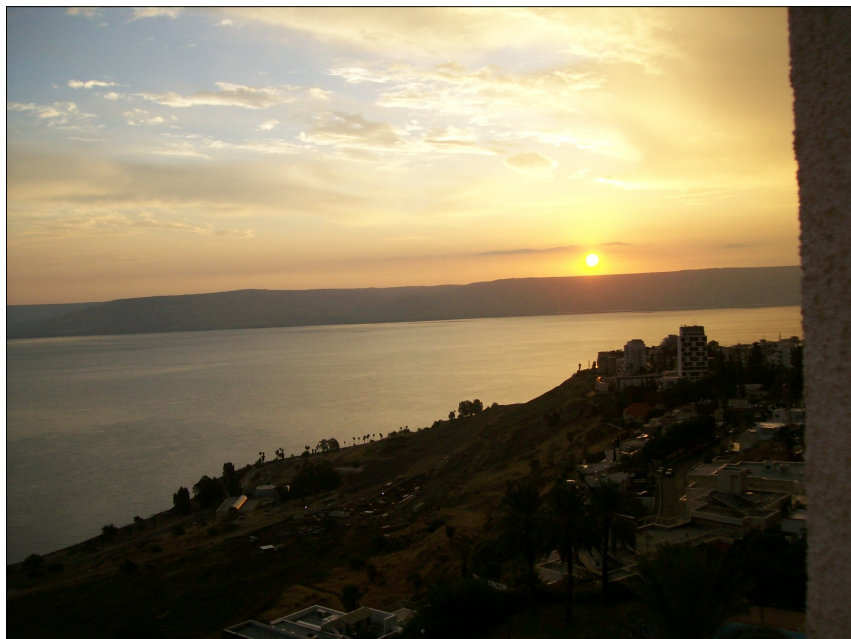
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## Calling of the Twelve 3:13-19

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## Lists of the Apostles

- Four lists of the Apostles appear in the New Testament.
- No four of them are the same.
  - Probably reflects the reality that while some of the disciples had prominent roles, memory of the others faded quickly.
- Each Gospel writer filled out the list from the tradition he received.

14

## The Inner Three: James, Peter, and John

- Mark refers more to these three than any of the other Gospels.
  - In Mark, they're Jesus' closest companions.
  - They witness the most secret, intimate events of Jesus' ministry.
- In contrast to Matthew and Luke
  - Mark does not exalt these disciples as the authorities of the church
  - Rather, they highlight two major themes: secrecy surrounding Jesus as Messiah and the failure of the disciples to understand Jesus.

15

## Simon Peter

- Peter preached to the Jews in Asia Minor, traveled to Rome, became the first Pope, and was martyred and buried there.
- Historians report that Peter requested to be crucified head downward.
- Historians believe that the preaching of Peter lies behind the Gospel of Mark

16

## James, Son of Zebedee

- Mentioned once outside of the Gospels: Acts 12:2
- James is the only apostle whose death is recorded in the NT. He was killed by Herod Agrippa, probably in 44. His guard became a believer and went to be beheaded with him.

17

## John, Son of Zebedee

- According to tradition, he is the author of the Gospel, letters, and apocalypse that bear his name.
- He traveled to Ephesus, ministered there, drank a poisoned cup unharmed. He died at an advanced age.

18

## Andrew

- Not mentioned outside of the Gospels.
- Left Jerusalem to evangelize Achaea, left Achaea to rescue Matthias from cannibals, traveled by sea, and worked miracles.
- He returned to Achaea, converted the wife of the proconsul, who in turn had him crucified because his wife would no longer associate with him.

19

## Philip

- Philip was the one who asked Jesus if he could go and bury his father.
- He is often confused with Philip the Evangelist.
- Died in Asia Minor of natural causes.

20

## Bartholomew

- Not mentioned outside of the Gospels.
- Tradition says he preached in India, where he left the Gospel of Matthew.
- After preaching in India, he was beheaded and his body cast into the sea.

21

## Matthew

- Not mentioned outside of the Gospels.
- Matthew compiled the works of Jesus in Hebrew. He preached to the Hebrews and wrote his Gospel for them.
- Tradition says he was a vegetarian.
- Some historians say he died of natural causes, others that he died by fire or the sword.

22

## Thomas

- The Gnostics believe he received secret revelations from the risen Christ.
- Some historians say he evangelized the Parthians, others that he went to India.
- Some Syrian Christians, who call themselves “Christians of St. Thomas” claim he was martyred and buried near Madras. His body was transported to Edessa.

23

## James, Son of Alphaeus

- Not mentioned outside of the Gospels.
- James the Less, according to tradition, worked in southern Palestine and Egypt before being crucified in lower Egypt or in Persia.

24

## Thaddaeus

- Not mentioned outside of the Gospels.
- He is sometimes identified as Judas, not Iscariot.
- According to Greek sources, he healed and converted many in Edessa.

25

## Simon the Cananean (or Zealot)

- Not mentioned outside of the Gospels.
- Simon was identified by some as Simeon son of Clopas, who succeeded James as the head of the church in Jerusalem.

26

## Judas Iscariot

- Mentioned in Acts 1:16, 25
- A 2<sup>nd</sup> century writing records a gruesome account of Judas' death.

27

## Jesus' Opponents and Jesus' True Family (3:20-35)

- Key words introduce the setting, each group of characters, and their response to Jesus

28

## Jesus' Opponents and Jesus' True Family (3:20-35)

- House, crowd, family (3:20-21)
  - In a house (3:20)
  - In a crowd (3:20)
  - His family: he has gone out of his mind (3:21)
- The scribes from Jerusalem (3:22-30)
  - The scribes: he has beezebul (3:22)
  - Jesus first response (3:23-29)
  - They had said: has has an unclean spirit (3:30)
- House, crowd, and family (3:31-35)
  - Family: his mother and his brothers (3:31)
  - Standing outside the house (3:31)
  - A crowd (3:32)
  - Jesus second response (3:33-35)