

Theology of Evangelism

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A good look at the crowd

Mark 3:7-12

In today's text we see a massive amount of people crowding the Master. This group of unknown faces, personalities and zip codes, are to be examined for our own learning. For they are a **needy** people, they are a **broken** people, they are a **hurting** people and they are a people **attracted** to God. We can learn from this crowd because in many ways we are this crowd.

This group of people has heard of the wondrous works of Christ and have come from the North, South, East and the West to be healed of the Master, touched by the Master, Delivered by the Master and set free from those things in life that have them oppressed.

I notice for the record that there could be no ministry without such people. It was for these who were in need of the Master, why Jesus came to earth. I have discovered that it is people the Master is interested in. It is people that God delights in changing, saving, transforming, redeeming and purchasing for Himself. **People are the ministry of God. (God has sent the gospel to people-not to horses and dogs)**

As ministers and change agents of God, we too need to be about the business of serving people.

- We must never forget the people. We must never omit the people;
- We must never neglect the people. Jesus came for the people, and so we must also be willing to minister unto them as Jesus would see fit for us to serve.

On today it is important to look in on the crowd and examine these would be followers of the masters. For in this crowd you and I also will be able to see the make up of folks. (For the crowd is made up of individuals, and individuals are people and people have real problems with real struggles)

1. I notice for the record that in every crowd there is an individual.
2. In every crowd there is a human being with emotional, physical, personal and spiritual needs.
3. Let's examine a minister's assignment as shepherd in the crowd.

7 *Jesus withdrew with his disciples to the lake, and **a large crowd** from Galilee followed.*

I. The Following Crowd

This crowd was a local group of folks who have been introduced to the Master now over a period of weeks. They are from the local countryside, town ships and small communities that he has been teaching and preaching in. **These spectators are committed to having something done in their lives by Jesus**

- This crowd was committed to hearing more good news about Jesus
- This crowd was committed to seeing some new miracle by Jesus
- This crowd was committed to being in the crowd
- This crowd was committed to being served by Jesus
- This crowd was committed to making contact with Jesus

1. They came from Galilee and the entire region surrounding the sea.
2. This was the crowd that saw Him at work in Peter's house,
3. This was the crowd who saw him at work in the synagogue
4. This was the crowd who saw Him at work raising the paralyzed, healing the diseased, casting out devils and curing all manner of sickness.
5. This crowd became witnesses of the work of Christ and spread the news throughout the country about What Jesus was doing in the area called Galilee.
6. This crowd was also predominantly a Jewish Crowd. Familiar with the synagogue and the prophecies to come about Christ.

Note:

- They spread the good news
- They told somebody
- They didn't keep it to them selves
- They made sure everyone had a chance to meet the Master
- They were excited enough and caring enough to bring others to the Master
- Mothers brought children, Fathers brought friends, and all were concerned enough about loved ones to bring them to Jesus

8 **When they heard** all he was doing, **many people came to him** from *Judea, Jerusalem, Idumea*, and the regions across the *Jordan and around Tyre and Sidon*.

II. The Coming Crowd

- The coming crowd was an expectant crowd. They had not come into contact with Jesus but they were in need of all that had been told unto them.
- This crowd was willing to commute to meet Jesus

- This crowd was willing to leave their homes and come see for themselves
- This crowd was willing to sacrifice and bring the sick with them, carry the wounded, lead the blind, deal with the possessed in order to see their loved ones made whole.
- Many in this crowd were Gentiles, (non-Jewish peoples)

They traveled from great distances by foot, on journeys that were long and tedious, filled with trials and difficulty.

(Can you imagine bringing the sick by stretcher, the possessed and the blind by hand on a 3 or 4 day journey through the country side? All the while Hoping that what you have heard about Jesus is true, and that he can make all things well.)

Notes:

1. **[Judea]** The southern division of the land of Palestine
(**These were mainly country people who lived out in the countryside**)
2. **[Jerusalem]** Jerusalem was "in" Judea. It is mentioned to show that not only the people of the surrounding country came, but also many from the capital, the place of wealth, and honor, and power.
(**People here had resources were cultured.**)
3. **[Idumea]** The word "Idumea" is a Greek word made from the Hebrew "Edom." It signifies the land of Edom, a name given to Esau, one of the sons of Isaac, Gen 25:30. The word signifies the color "red,". They were a dark hary people. From them sprang Herod the Great. (**They were a powerful people group of people**)
4. **[From beyond Jordan]** From the region east of the river Jordan. "beyond Jordan" they meant that on the EAST side.(**Those on the other side of the tracks” the poor, despised, broken and hurting**)
5. **[Tyre and Sidon]** *TYRE* An ancient Phoenician city, located on the shore of the Mediterranean Sea, twenty miles from Sidon . (A gentile people group) A military city, that was spoken of as "**the bestower of crowns**, whose merchants were princes, whose traders were the honored of the earth" (Isa 23:8). (**They were people who were well established**)

6. **SI'DON** (si'don) The town was some twenty miles N of Tyre, is called Saida at present, Solomon was influenced by Sidonian cults (11:5-7) and hired expert Sidonian timber cutters. Sidonians worshiped Baal and Ashtoreth. **(They were people in Need of the truth, and they came also to hear Jesus)**

Note:

(1.) What induced them to follow him; was the report they heard of the great things he did for all that applied themselves to him; some wished to see one that had done such great things, and others hoped he would do great things for them.

- They all came at the same time to the Sea of Galilee to meet Jesus.
- **The Bible say's when they HEARD, they came to HIM!**
- **This was a group of people with problems, issues, cares, needs, frustrations, desires, feelings, emotions, hang-ups, strong holds.**
- **They were probably impatient, sick and tired of being sick and tired.**
- **They were hurting, lonely, beggars, they had been let down by others and had no tolerance for religious games and protocol.**

III. The Masters Love for the Crowd

Vs. 9 Because of **the crowd** he told his disciples to have a small boat ready for him, **to keep the people from crowding him**. 10 For he had healed many, so that those with diseases **were pushing forward to touch him**.

Because of His Love for the people;

1. Jesus made provisions to minister to the people
2. Jesus had a strategy for healing the multitudes
3. Jesus was concerned about all who came to Him
4. Jesus turned no one away, who desired to be healed
5. Jesus had time for every one who came unto him
6. Jesus would serve all of the multitude
7. Jesus called for the disciples to help him set up a ministry station in a little ship

Note:

- They gave Him a small boat that could thrust out far enough but not remove His presence from the crowd.
- The boat became his portable physicians office
- The boat gave him space to avoid the crushing blows of the crowd.
- The crowd was so desperate and in such need they acted accordingly.

- The crowd was in prison to their diseases, devils, pains, problems and pressures they needed deliverance, and Jesus would not let them down.

Note:

Here is the picture of prevailing prayer in the time of need, when the children of God Presses in like this. God is sure to answer every time. Prayer of this sort is desperate, desirable, determined, and driven to see that God will answer your call.

IV. The Possessed Crowd

11 Whenever the evil spirits saw him, they fell down before him and cried out, **"You are the Son of God."** 12 But he gave them strict orders not to tell who he was.

- There was a crowd there that was taken hostage by the enemy
- There was a crowd there that was influenced by the underworld
- There was a crowd there that was under the control of the wicked one.
- This crowd observed the Master Healing others and doing the works that were for told long ago would happen when the Master came.
- This crowd was not there for relief, but was rather there for observation, to see if this was really the Messiah.

Note:

1. Their cry (the demons) was to bring negative attention to Jesus.
2. They wanted to testify of Him,
3. They wanted to bring attention to His true identity.
4. They wanted to be the ones who broadcasted that this was the Son of God.
5. **Jesus would not have devils to testify on his part, so he forbade them to speak in his presence. (God will have no demons to speak on his behalf)**

Conclusion

1. **There are three crowds today;**
2. **The following crowd who has found the Savior**
3. **The coming crowds who have heard but have not received**
4. **The possessed crowd who are controlled by the underworld, and are possessed with envy, greed, hatred, false humility.**

Note:

These same crowds would follow Jesus through the year of Popularity.

They were present in the year of opposition.

They were present at the crucifixion of the cross.

The crowd is a strange phenomenon; One minute they were following Jesus and singing his praise, The next they were spitting and cursing him yelling crucify Him.

Home work:

Please write a 200 word essay on what you have learned from this lesson, and how you will apply it to your life?

Theology of Evangelism

Mark 1:1-8

1:1 The beginning of the gospel about Jesus Christ, the Son of God.

2 It is written in Isaiah the prophet: "I will send my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way

3 a voice of one calling in the desert,

'Prepare the way for the Lord, make straight paths for him.'

4 And so John came, baptizing in the desert region and preaching a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins.

5 The whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem went out to him. Confessing their sins, they were baptized by him in the Jordan River.

6 John wore clothing made of camel's hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey.

7 And this was his message: "After me will come one more powerful than I, the thongs of whose sandals I am not worthy to stoop down and untie.

8 I baptize you with water, but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit."

Intro:

There was complete silence in heaven; God had not said a word to mankind. 400 years of silence, no prophets, no proclamation, no demonstration of HIS power and no miracles to point man to himself. God was silent.

The office of the priesthood was in order; organized religion was the event of the day. People were going through the motions with God, the Pharisees and Sadducees had polluted the temple, and made a mockery out of the Old Covenant. God's people were without a witness, **and then came John!**

Isaiah had prophesied that before the coming of the messiah, a voice would be heard crying in the wilderness, "make straight the way of the Lord".

This was important because Rome was building roads throughout the world, and idolatry was filling the earth. But John came as one who was building a new road, one in which the **King of Glory was going to travel on.**

1. John **was a voice** from heaven,
2. John **was a voice** of salvation,
3. John **was a voice** of help for the helpless,
4. John was a sight for sore eyes, and he came and fulfilled scripture by pointing the way to the messiah.

John came out of nowhere, John came out of the back roads of Judea, his beginnings were humble, were isolated, as he studied in the desert (no-one knew of his school)

1. When John came he came **on fire**
2. When John came He came **with intensity**
3. When John came he came in an **un-orthodox manner**, but He came in power.
4. He was just like an Old Testament prophet who struck passion in the heart of the hearers.
5. He was like an Old Testament prophet who struck fear in the minds on the multitudes
6. He was like an Old Testament prophet who had a word from the Lord.

Note:

What the Prophet Isaiah said would come had finally come, "A **voice of one crying in the wilderness**".

- John was a witness for Christ
- John's task was to be a witness in the New Testament by God
- He was a prophet from the **Old Covenant but a voice in the New Covenant**
- John's task was to make a highway for Jesus to enter into and begin His Ministry (a **spiritual highway**)

Note:

1. John's ministry is what ours is to be as a church.
2. We are called to be modern day John's calling out to a dying world, **warning them of the Savior to come**, calling for all to come to Jesus while they have a chance.
3. We are to **build spiritual highways** for others to come to Jesus
4. This is our sole responsibility as a Church. **Preparing a way for others to come to Jesus**

Background:

Who was John

1. The bible teaches that John was of the priestly tribe by both of his parents.
2. His father, Zechariah, was a priest of the division of Abijah, and his mother, Elizabeth, was one of the daughters of Aaron"
3. His birth was a miraculous intervention of the almighty. (a miracle baby)
4. John's ministry was foretold by an angel sent from God, who at the same time assigned to him the name of **John**.
5. He was born in the hill country of Judea, six months before the birth of our Lord Jesus.

6. John was the cousin of Jesus by birth
7. **Johns name** meant *Jehovah's Gift*

4 And so John came, baptizing in the desert region and preaching a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins.

I. What was Johns Mission

- John's mission was first to come into the world as a messenger of God. His name tells us he was a gift from God.
 1. From the beginning of time He was created for **this mission**. The witness of John was given that men might believe. **He was God's gift to humanity, to prepare the way for Christ.**
 2. John's mission was to witness to the world not to the Christ. **(A gift sent from God to the world) Jesus needs no one to witness to Him. He is God, He can witness of himself.**
 3. John's mission was to be God's ambassador to a fallen world to make way for the coming king.
 4. John's mission was to be a voice in the world for Christ.
 5. John's mission was to prepare the way for Jesus, by preaching the baptism of repentance.

Note:

John was like the night watchman that goes round the town, proclaiming the coming light of the morning. Some have closed their eyes, and are not willing to see it.

He was sent of God to tell the world that the long-looked-for Messiah was now come, which would be a light to the Gentiles and the glory of his people Israel;

John came to testify that Jesus was truly the light of the world, so that all people might put their trust in Him.

II. What was Johns Message

The message of John was unlike the message of the day. He didn't preach what the Pharisee's preached, He didn't preach what the scribes preached, he didn't preach what the eastern religions preached, He preached about the coming Messiah of Israel, and the need to accept Him as their King and God.

- John came to preach the baptism of repentance.

- John came to point the people to repentance, and prepare them, to receive the cleansing of their souls through Christ.
- John's message was to show people how to confess their sins and turn from them.
- John's message moved people to be baptized and confess their sins, and make the first step towards receiving Jesus Christ.

Note:

The results of John's message caused the hearers to do five things.

1. Prepare to Repent and turn from their sins
2. Prepare for the baptism to come from the messiah
3. Prepare their minds for the coming Kingdom of God
4. Prepare to depart from the religions of the world
5. **Prepare the way for Jesus**

III. The Mission, and Message of the Church

1. We are sent witnesses of **Christ and for Christ**,
2. We are **modern day messengers** called to witness to men and women lost in darkness about the light.
3. We are to prepare a spiritual highway for **non-believers to come to the lord**
 - On the job, we tell the story
 - At home, we tell the story
 - In the community, we tell the story
 - At play, we tell the story
 - Where ever people are, we tell the story

We are called to witness for Jesus, and prepare the way of His return, by bringing in those who are lost and without a personal relationship with Him.

Application for the church

- Christ can use a faithful witness like John
- Christ can use a humble witness like John
- Christ can use a devoted witness like John
- Christ can use a church who lives like John lived

Note:

It was the messenger's focus to proclaim the way of Jesus who was to come into the world. There were other "so called saviors that had come and gone" **But John would represent the true savior.**

- Jesus would show men the way for eternal life.
- Jesus was coming that all men would be given life.
- This does not mean that all men have received knowledge of Christ, nor does it mean that all have heard about him, But rather that when Christ came He would come for all men, regardless of race, money, or nationality.

Keys to preparing the way

1. Spiritual hunger for God
2. Spiritually sensitive to the mission of God
3. Sick of the world and what it has to offer
4. Sold out saint to sanctification
5. Serious about spiritual matters
6. Saved and set a flame with the Holy Ghost
7. Saint who is a living sacrifice (dying daily to themselves)

Note:

- John was called before birth to prepare the way for Christ.
- **Christians are called** before birth to witness for Jesus.
- John was separated from the customs of the world.
- **Christians are called** to come out from among the world's customs. (gambling, sinful pleasures, wickedness etc.)
- John was called to go against the thought of the day.
- **Christians are called** to pull down the strong hold of worldly philosophies and ideas.
- We are to resemble our brother (John Baptist) by living out our faith in this wicked culture, pointing men to the Light that has shine abroad in our hearts.

Conclusion

- As God called John, He is calling you,
- As God assigned John He is assigning you
- As God used John, He will use you
- As God enabled John, He will enable you
- As God filled John, he will fill you
- As God moved John, He will move you

Note:

1. John fulfilled the call on his life, what about you?
 2. John embraced the will of the Lord, what about you?
 3. John submitted to voice of God, what about you?
 4. John heard, he moved, he obeyed, what about you?
- **Jesus came, and John was right**

- **Jesus came, just as John had said**
- **Jesus came, and the masses repented**
- **Jesus came, and many got new life**
- **Jesus came, and the world has not been the same**
- **Jesus came, and the blind got to see**
- **Jesus came, and the deaf got to hear**
- **Jesus came, and the cripple got to walk**
- **Jesus came, and the demon possessed got freed**

Jesus came, and at the cross of Calvary he died for the sins of the world, that men may have a right to the tree of life.

Jesus died to set man free from sin. Jesus was buried, and rose again from the dead, all who believe may have everlasting life.

Home work:

Please write a 200 word essay on what you have learned from this lesson, and how you will apply it to your life?

Before He could start in Evangelism

Mark 1: 9-13

9 **At that time Jesus came from Nazareth** in Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan.

10 As Jesus was coming up out of the water, he saw heaven being torn open and the Spirit descending on him like a dove.

11 And a voice came from heaven: "You are my Son, whom I love; with you I am well pleased."

12 At once the Spirit sent him out into the desert,

13 and he was in the desert forty days, being tempted by Satan. He was with the wild animals, and angels attended him.

NIV

Introduction:

The task of God was big, the road for humanity's redemption was being paved, their need was great and the time of salvation was now and God's plan was about to be revealed in His Son. It had been thirty long years of waiting in obscurity, thirty long years of living in adversity, thirty long years of waiting to heal, save, rescue, and to make lives new who were crying for help. The Master had not conducted one miracle for mankind, but now the time had come.

Background information:

Jesus had come from heaven to redeem mankind, and it was time to begin the work that the Father had sent HIM to do. The mission of John Baptist had had been completed the message of the coming messiah had been preached. Multitudes had been encouraged and invited to look for the One who would save Israel.

Large crowds had come from all over the region, and all eyes were waiting for the coming messiah. The religious structure of the day was corrupt, the people of God were hungry for a new word, and the enemies of Israel had made life difficult for them to live in their own country. *The people of the nation were in desperate need of the Kingdom of God* "**And then came Jesus.**"

9 **At that time Jesus came from Nazareth** in Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan.

10 As Jesus was coming up out of the water, **he saw heaven being torn open and the Spirit descending on him like a dove.** 11 And a **voice came from heaven**: "**You are my Son**, whom I love; with you **I am well pleased.**"

1. The Coming of Jesus

Note:

Some say that Nazareth was 60 miles from the Jordan River. Jesus had to walk the distance in response to the fulfillment of God's mission. (But he came anyway) He had no transportation; he had no means of travel. (**But he came anyway**) He had to give up some thing in Nazareth to join God in what he was doing in Galilee. This trip to the Jordan cost Him something.

Lessons from Christ Journey:

- As He traveled from Heaven to live on earth, He had to give up some things;
- It cost Jesus his Kingdom position of heaven, comforts, riches, and constant communion with the Triune God.
- Yet He chose to come down to earth and to redeem mankind.
- He gave up everything in glory to make the journey here and become a man

Application for New Beginnings:

- Following the will of God for your life cost you something.
- You must be willing to make adjustments in order to respond and to obey the call of God on your life.
- ***We too must be prepared to make major adjustments, in our living, giving and our serving.***

What exactly did the coming of Christ mean?

1. The coming of Christ meant that God had come to live among men,
2. The coming of Christ meant that the visible image of the invisible God would now walk, talk, and minister to them in person
3. The coming of Christ meant that they would have access to God 24/7
4. The coming of Christ meant that they could finally, physically hold, handle and hug the King of Glory.
5. The coming of Christ meant that they were going to see what the Old Testament saints could not see.

In Christ coming to be baptized by John, He had to do several things:

- Jesus had to leave **earthly family** to go down to the Jordan and be baptized
- Jesus had to leave **earthly friends** to go down to the Jordan and be baptized

- Jesus had to leave **earthly surroundings** to go down to the Jordan and be baptized
- Jesus had to **make adjustments** in Life to go down to the Jordan and be baptized

Why did he have to be baptized?

1. Jesus had come to the Jordan to be baptized to **fulfill the plan** of God for mankind.
2. Jesus had come to partake in the baptism of John **to fulfill scripture** in the Old Testament.
3. Jesus baptism was a **call to die**, and to rise again from the dead.
4. Jesus baptism was not for **the redemption of sin**, it was a picture of what He was to accomplish because of **the effects of sin. (Sacrificial death)**
5. Jesus was sinless and without sin, he did not need the baptism to prepare for the **receiving of salvation**.
6. Jesus did not need to repent of sin; he was God who could not sin. Therefore His baptism was not to repent of anything.
7. He was 100% man and 100% God, Born of a human but filled with a divine nature, void of human sin.

Application

Each born again believer has a Nazareth we must depart from and a baptism we are to endure.

- Each believer is called to leave their own Nazareth and participate in the believer's baptism, which takes place after we have **been born of the water and Spirit** of Christ, through faith and repentance.
- Each believer must depart from **earthly family, earthly friends, earthly idols** to come and follow Jesus. He is calling us to come unto Him and to surrender all to him.
- Each believer is **called to be baptized** with the baptism of suffering, for if we are to follow Christ in total obedience it will cost you something.

Note:

- *What we seen in the Life of Christ, is a man who is in total surrender to God. He is committed unto death to the will of the Father.*
 - *This is what God is calling for New Beginnings, total commitment of all of our lives. Are we committed to day to go down the way of the Jordan, Leaving all behind, forsaking all others and clinging to Christ alone?*
- 2. The Confirmation of Jesus**

10 As Jesus was *coming up out of* the water, **he saw heaven** being **torn open** and the **Spirit descending on him** like a dove.

Note:

- ***The heavens were being torn open***
schizo (skhid'-zo); a verb; to split or sever.
- The Father who was watching intimately His Son, got excited during the Prayer and ceremony and tore away the canopy of skies, and rolled back the clouds, split in two the atmosphere, shifted the Sun, and made his power stand still. In this the brightness and the glory of the Lord's power was shown.
- **The Heavens broke apart!** The kingdom of the wicked one had been invaded, and the entire underworld knew that God had come to earth, and was present in the form of a Man named Jesus.

Note:

There are several amazing facts about this baptism experience;

- **First**, we have Jesus engaged, going voluntarily under the yoke, of obedience.
- **Secondly**, we have Him consecrated and anointed with the Holy Spirit (John 3:34), divinely equipped for the work given Him to do.
- **Thirdly**, we have Him divinely identified by the Father who knew Him best and cannot lie; a
- **Fourthly**, He was publicly inaugurated and formally installed in the authority of His office, as the Son of God in the flesh, and the Object of His Father's love.

THE ACTIVITY OF THE TRINITY ON EARTH

- The trinity of Heaven was present on earth, and the Kingdom of God was made manifest!
- The Kingdom of God was present, and HIS rule and reign was visibly apparent.
- The Triune God Head was actively confirming the work of the second member of their Being. (this had not happened in the scripture since the creation of earth in Genesis 1:1)
- Christ Baptism fulfilled two Old Testament prophetic passages (Psalms 2:7; Isaiah 42:1).

I will proclaim the decree of the LORD: He said to me, "You are my Son; today I have become your Father.

NIV

Isaiah 42:1

"Here is my servant, whom I uphold, my chosen one in whom I delight; I will put my Spirit on him and he will bring justice to the nations.

Application

1. **Jesus Baptism** was A picture of the resurrection from the dead to come. When we are baptized, we die to the old sin nature and are raised to the newness of life.
2. **God the Spirit descended from above at the baptism** When we are baptized the Holy Spirit also identifies with the child of God, and owns us as His children.(this was a picture of the indwelling power of the Holy Ghost who would come to live in and on the believer)
3. **God the Father spoke from above.** (This a picture of God the Fathers verbal communication of His love for His children, and the position, power and presence we have in HIM) John 3:16 (all this we have in His word)

III. The Commission of Jesus

12 At once the Spirit sent him out into the desert,

13 and he was in the desert forty days, being tempted by Satan. He was with the wild animals, and angels attended him.

After coming to the Jordan, and being confirmed by the Father, the Spirit of God having **commissioned** His work on earth **Sent** Jesus into the desert. Several things happened during the course of His journey in the desert.

1. He was sent & separated

Jesus was **sent** by the Spirit of God (ekballo /ek-bal'-lo) to eject him into a place of solitude.

- Jesus was **Sent** not given an option on where he wanted to go
- Jesus was **sent** & ordained to experience the desert
- Jesus was **sent** & prepared to endure hardness
- Jesus was sent to go and be tested
- Jesus knew what awaited Him in the darkness
- Jesus knew that the world was filled with satanic host
- Jesus knew that evil was lurking, but he was sent to the desert, by the Spirit of God, and HE submitted to the will of God.
 1. The desert was a lonely place
 2. The desert was a place of hunger
 3. The desert was a place of poverty
 4. The desert was a place where a man gets tested
 5. The desert was a place of warfare

6. The desert was a place of suffering
7. The desert was a place of pain
8. The desert was a place of separation
9. No comforts in the desert
10. No pillows for your head in the desert
11. No protection from the elements in the desert
12. Not a lot of resources in the desert
13. The sun play's tricks on you in the desert
14. The cold evening winds hurt in the desert

The Spirit of GOD sent by the SON of GOD (ekballo /ek-bal'-lo) to ejected him into the place of trials.

Application:

- Every now and then God sends his children into the desert places of life to be tried.
- Every now and then the Spirit of God entrust his servants with suffering on the journey.
- Every now and then the Spirit of God decides to refine us by giving us a desert experience.
- (Example: Moses, Job, Paul, Jeremiah, David, The Apostles)
- In the desert lessons of life, God refines, and defines his servants.
- In the desert God purifies, perfects, and produces godly character in the work of His Man.

2. Jesus was secluded in solitude

1. For forty days he prayed and ate nothing.
2. For forty day's he communed with the father
3. For forty day's he sought the Will of God for the assignment
4. For forty day's he would seek God the Fathers face on earth
5. He had never experienced seclusion in Heaven
6. He had never experienced separation in Heaven
7. He had never experience Humanity in heaven
8. He had never experienced the desert in flesh in heaven

Note:

1. This was all new to Jesus (God in flesh) this experience would introduce him to the sufferings of man on a human level.
2. **As God he knew of suffering, he knew of pain, he knew of heartache, but as man he would experience them personally, physically, literally in all of his humanity, in order to fully identify with our every need.**

Jesus was sent by the Spirit of God (ekballo /ek-bal'-lo) to eject him into a place of solitude.

3. Jesus was seduced to sin by Satan

During the desert experience with His Father, he was interrupted by the evil one, who had come to steal, kill and to destroy.

- The wicked one tempted Jesus with the **lust of the flesh** and the **pride of life** and the **lust of the eyes**. He endured the temptation and refused to give in.
- The wicked one tempted Him to get him to forsake **His calling, flee His confirmation** and **forget His commission**. But he endured the temptation and refused to give in.
- The wicked one tempted Him and tried to get to Jesus like he did with Adam and eve, but **Jesus endured the temptation** and was victorious in the battle.
- Mark adds this little touch about the wild beasts in the wilderness. It was the haunt at night of the wolf, the boar, the hyena, the jackal, the leopard. It was lonely and depressing in its isolation and even dangerous.
- Jesus endured the hunt of the wicked one

Application

During our desert experience with our Father, we are often interrupted by the evil one, who comes to steal, kill and to destroy.

- The wicked one tempts us with the **lust of the flesh** and the **pride of life** and the **lust of the eyes**. Just like Jesus we **MUST** endure the temptation and refused to give in.
- The wicked one tempts us to get us to forsake **our calling, flee our confirmation** and **forget our commission**. But Just like Jesus we **MUST** endure the temptation and refused to give in.
- The wicked one will continue to tempt us to try and get us like he did with Adam and eve, but **Just like Jesus; we MUST endure the temptation** and be victorious in the battle.

Note:

It is midnight in the wilderness of life, and the wild beasts are on the haunt at night. The wolf, the boar, the hyena, the jackal, and the leopard, are all looking for innocent lives to devour. Life is lonely and depressing in its isolation at times, and even dangerous, but remember Jesus survived the trial and you can too.

Note:

The temptation of Christ was no sin, however if he had yielded to the offers of the wicked one, Sin would have contaminated the Lamb of God, making Him no longer the only answer for removing the sin of the world. Jesus was victorious, because he did not yield to sin.

4. HE was served by the Angels

- HE was served by the Angels after the victory was one
- HE was served by the Angels when His flesh was weak
- HE was served by the Angels when he was hungry
- HE was served by the Angels when he was tired
- HE was served by the Angels when he needed it most
- HE was served by the Angels and celebrated as they all watched from Glory the battle of temptation in the wilderness.

The Victory can be won:

- Adam fell in the first garden, but Jesus won in the wilderness
- Adam fell in the place of pleasure, But Jesus won in the heart of the wilderness
- Adam fell among the good animals, but Jesus won among the wild beast beast.

Application

- There is victory in the battle of temptation
- There is victory over sin and temptation
- There is victory in the desert
- There is victory for us on the journey
- Our victory is in Jesus, our help in the time of need.
- He is greater than the Angels, HE lives in us and dwells in us and HE has defeated Satan once and for all.
- When we had no way of escaping the wrath of God, THEN CAME JESUS.
- When we had no one to fight our battles, THEN CAME JESUS.
- When we are all on death row, doomed for a burning hell, THEN CAME JESUS.
- The king of glory came down from heaven saw the needs of mankind and got involved with a hurting humanity.
- The blind could not see, the crippled could not walk, the demon possessed had no peace, the diseased had no cure, AND THEN CAME JESUS
- One night at Calvary's cross he was crucified for the sins of the world.
- He laid His life down to take away the sin for all of mankind.
- He died, was buried in a borrowed tomb, and early Sunday morning he rose again from the dead, with all power of heaven and earth in His hands.
- He has ascended to the right hand of the Father, and one day when the times is right,

Home work:

Please write a 200 word essay on what you have learned from this lesson, and how you will apply it to your life?

The kingdom of God and evangelism*Mark 4: 21-33*

21 He said to them, "Do you bring in a lamp to put it under a bowl or a bed? Instead, don't you put it on its stand? 22 For whatever is hidden is meant to be disclosed, and whatever is concealed is meant to be brought out into the open. 23 If anyone has ears to hear, let him hear."

24 "Consider carefully what you hear," he continued. "With the measure you use, it will be measured to you-and even more. 25 Whoever has will be given more; whoever does not have, even what he has will be taken from him."

26 He also said, "This is what the kingdom of God is like. A man scatters seed on the ground. 27 Night and day, whether he sleeps or gets up, the seed sprouts and grows, though he does not know how. 28 All by itself the soil produces grain-first the stalk, then the head, then the full kernel in the head. 29 As soon as the grain is ripe, he puts the sickle to it, because the harvest has come."

30 Again he said, "What shall we say the kingdom of God is like, or what parable shall we use to describe it? 31 It is like a mustard seed, which is the smallest seed you plant in the ground. 32 Yet when planted, it grows and becomes the largest of all garden plants, with such big branches that the birds of the air can perch in its shade."

33 With many similar parables Jesus spoke the word to them, as much as they could understand. 34 He did not say anything to them without using a parable. But when he was alone with his own disciples, he explained everything.

Introduction:

It had been a long day of instruction. Jesus had taught the multitude from Sun up to sun down. He had now sat down with the chosen disciples and began to explain to them the parables of the Kingdom. At our last visit of this lesson, we discovered the four types of hearers that were gathered at the meeting at the sea side. There was those in the multitude who were the hard hearted hearers, the stony hearted hearers, the thorny hearted hearers and the hearers who heard everything and took what they heard and produced much fruit for their lives.

It was after the explanation of this parable that the Master began to instruct his followers concerning all that they had heard and all that they would receive in the future.

It is in vs. 21 Jesus wants them to know that the truth of what He was teaching was like a lamp. This light must not be hidden under anything but be shared openly with the world. This light represents truth.

In vs. 22 we find that there is no truth Hidden that will not be revealed. Because truth is like a light, those who are searching for it will find it, because truth cannot be kept a secret.

In vs. 24 He charged them to take heed to what they were hearing, And be sure to put into practice what they heard, for what ever they learned would be increased by more knowledge. To those who heard and did not practice it they themselves would loose the teachings of the kingdom and any other knowledge about God that they had once understood.

Background:

It is then that the Master opens up for us the two new teachings of what the kingdom of God is like. The Master uses the parable of the “*Growing seed*” and the Parable of the “*Mustard seed*”.

All of these teachings have common ground, for all three deal with seed, ground, and growth. Because of the agricultural ties of Palestine, Jesus uses these elements to open the eyes of the disciples to see what the Kingdom of God is really like.

I. The Parable of the Growing Seed. (a picture of God’s mission on earth)

26 He also said, "This is what the kingdom of God is like. A man scatters seed on the ground. 27 Night and day, whether he sleeps or gets up, the seed sprouts and grows, though he does not know how.

Note:

There is one observation that I notice right away about this text. The kingdom of God is pictured in this text in the past, present and future activity of God in the earthly realm.

The activity has both happened already and is happening as we speak today.

The Meaning of the Parable

- Jesus is the farmer who scatters the seed on the ground.
- God has come to spread the kingdom through HIS Son, Jesus Christ, by preaching “Throwing the Seed” on earth.
- The seed is the gospel of Jesus Christ that was preached after his death burial and resurrection.
- The gospel was to be proclaimed first by Christ and then by those called to proclaim His word
- The seed was sown first in Northern Palestine and has now spread to the ends of the earth.
- God is yet preaching His word across the world.
- The good news of Jesus Death burial and resurrection is actively being spread by “gospilizers” across the continent.

28 All by itself the soil produces grain-first the stalk, then the head, then the full kernel in the head.

- The seed in this text produces life
- The mystery of the growth is not known to man, so he rises and sleeps and cannot tell how the seed does what it does, nor can he tell what exactly is in the soil to help the seed to grow
- As the gospel seed grows in peoples lives no one can explain how people change so drastically.

Example of the disciples change

- The disciples would become sold out followers of Christ, because of this drastic change
- Their growth could not be seen with the naked eye.
- Their growth took place over time, as they spent time with Jesus.

Example of the Christians change

- This growth in the church is a divine act of God. “Man cannot produce it” Prayer, bible study and service causes growth to occur in the hearts of men.
- The change that occurs is not seen with the naked eye
- This change happens gradually, old attitudes began to change
- The mean become sweet, the selfish began to share, the stingy began to give, the gossip begins to hold their peace, the wicked become righteous, the sinner becomes a saint. There is a change that takes place.

Note:

Just like the ground. There is some stuff in the dirt that makes stuff grow. You can't see it, taste it, or even analyze it to find out exactly what it is. It is a mystery to the mind.

So it is with the WORD, the stuff that makes us grow in Christ is hidden in the word.

- God has put some “stuff” in the word (the seed) that produces life in the Christian that helps them to grow at the preaching and teaching of the word.
- It is a divine act of God's spiritual economy of new birth and divine growth. (Taking place right now in the lives of you his people in the earthly realm.

In the future tense;

29 As soon as the grain is ripe, he puts the sickle to it, because the harvest has come."

Note:

All of the disciples knew exactly what Jesus was saying when he talked about the harvest. The picture was a perfect illustration of what would happen at the end of the growing process.

- This was a notice to the disciples of what would happen at the fullness of time
- When the time is right, and all things have been fulfilled, the fruit will be ready to harvest.
- When All of the growing is done, then what has been produced will be used
- When the gospel has produced the fruit by which it was designed to produce, then the harvest will come.
- When the harvest comes, the Master will use his people in the work of the kingdom

Note:

Jesus is saying that this is *what the Kingdom of God is like*. It is God who has preached the word, invested it in people who will grow in the word, and produce fruit in their lives that will be used for him in the saving of souls.

1. When the grain is ripe, it is reaped for the benefit of him who sowed it; for it can be of no use until it be ripe: *so when a soul is saved from all sin, it is capable of being fully employed in the work of the Lord:*
2. It is then, and not until then, that the Master can use it for his special use. God saves men, that they may perfectly love him, and magnify his name in the earth.
 - God is preparing us for a great work in His kingdom.
 - Some of you are near ready for harvesting!
 - Some of you are being prepared to be used by God!
 - Some of you are ripe for the Harvest!

- Some of you have come into your season!
- Some of you have a little while to go!
- Some of you have a long while to go!
- Some are being harvested right now, for the Master's use!
- But where ever you are in the Parable you are involved in the kingdom of God!

Note:

Everybody who is a part of the Christian family is in this parable some where.

1. *We are living in the Kingdom of God right now.*
2. *We are working in the Kingdom of God right now.*
3. *We are sharing in the Kingdom of God right now.*
4. *We are serving in the Kingdom of God right now.*
5. *We are loving in the Kingdom of God right now.*
6. *We are giving to the Kingdom of God right now.*
7. *We are partners in the Kingdom of God right now.*
8. *We are committed to the vision of God and HIS Kingdom, right now.*

30 Again he said, "What shall we say the kingdom of God is like, or what parable shall we use to describe it? 31 It is like a mustard seed, which is the smallest seed you plant in the ground.

II. The Parable of the Mustard Seed. (*a picture of the church*)

- By this image our Lord shows the great power of the development of His church
- The church had to first be planted like a seed, then grow in obscurity, develop over time, and also grow through mystery
- The mustard seed was very small in its beginnings, **JUST LIKE THE CHURCH.**
- It has always been in the heart of God to start small with his church, but to end with her being large enough to have the nations rest in her branches.

32 Yet when planted, it grows and becomes the largest of all garden plants, with such big branches that the birds of the air can perch in its shade."

Note:

It is a historical fact that the mustard seed can grow to become one of the largest herbs in the Middle East. It has branches that would spread broad and wide. It is also said to sometimes grow up to 10 and sometimes 15 ft. high.

- Jesus uses this picture to paint how the **CHURCH WOULD BE UPON** its **COMPLETION** on earth.
- She would start small with 12 men and grow into a **UNIVERSAL BODY OF BAPTIZED BELIEVERS.**

- In the beginning, the seed looked insignificant and that it would not amount to anything. But soon it spread itself over the whole world.
- The church is like the mustard seed, in that, every nation has a branch, every tongue has a branch,
- Every continent has a branch, and every denomination that names the NAME of CHRIST has a branch.

Example of the present birds that live on the branches

- There's a Baptist branch,
- a Pentecostal branch,
- a Methodist branch,
- a Presbyterian branch,
- a Non-denominational branch,
- a Brethren branch,
- an Evangelical branch,
- a Conservative branch,
- a Eastern Orthodox branch,
- A Wesleyan branch,
- A Covenant branch,
- A Episcopal branch, and A Anglican branch,
- Different branches that preach Christ around the world.
- Branches that reach into the East, the West, the North and the South. And all of the saints lodge on the branches of the Kingdom of God.

Note:

1. God is the reason we gather, Because of Jesus we can rest under the Shadow of the Almighty. We don't all fly from the same location, but one day we will gather at the same Destination.
2. As of right now we rest on the branch of the Kingdom of God, in our different regions. We wait for the day when God will call us all home to the Kingdom of HEAVEN.
3. As of right now we work in the KINGDOM of GOD, one day we will enter into the KINGDOM of Heaven!
4. All of this began with a tiny little seed, that was put in the ground 2000 years ago.

Jesus said that upon this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hell shall not prevail against it.

He took that group of 12 men and poured his word into their lives

He then showed them how to live, how to suffer, and how to die

- After he went to the cross for their sins,
- He was crucified at the cross for them

- He died that they would live.
- He was buried in a borrowed tomb.
- And Early Sunday morning He rose from the grave with all power of Heaven and Earth in His hands.
- He gave them his spirit and the harvest had come. They were ripe for the mission, they were ripe for the kingdom, and they were ripe for the assignment.

Note:

1. They were ripe for the producing.
2. They were ripe for the nations. They carried the gospel to the end of the earth.
3. Until one day in Birmingham Alabama, New Beginnings Family Church got a hold of that same seed.
4. And now we are growing in the same grace, growing in the same knowledge, Growing in the word, growing in our service, Growing in our knowledge of the Master, Growing in the Spirit of God!

We are looking for the Harvest! We are ripening for the work! Use us Lord for the work of your Kingdom!

Home work:

Please write a 200 word essay on what you have learned from this lesson, and how you will apply it to your life?

Ministry Opposition in evangelism

Mark 3:20-30

Background:

The crowds were continuing **to come to him, and the word had spread all around the region concerning his power and fame. Jesus had now selected 12 men to be with him as his Apostles.** (and the enemy was upset). So much so, that we see opposition in the early days of the ministry for the Master.

The opposition came to him in three unique groups of people.

1. Those of the demanding crowd
2. Those of the doubting crowd
3. Those of the devilish crowd

Key observation:

- Each one of these groups had their reasons for opposing the master. However, each reason was interfering in what The Jesus was doing in the life of the Apostles.
- The Apostles had just been chosen and were ordained for the work with Jesus. They had now begun the process of training in an intimate setting with the Master, when opposition came from these three groups.

Note:

Opposition can sometimes disrupt our intimate sessions with Jesus. The crowd has **demands, doubts, and devilish desires** that come to distract us from getting alone with God.

Today's text presents a clear picture of ministry opposition in the life of the Master and the church. If Jesus had opposition than surely you and I will face difficulty as it relates to our intimacy and discipleship with our Lord.

Vs.20 Then Jesus entered a house, **and again a crowd gathered**, so that he and his disciples were not **even able to eat**.

I. The First Crowd (a demanding crowd)

- The first crowd was guilty of wanting all of Jesus for them-selves
- They were guilty of demanding his time, space, energy and attention
- They were guilty of needing him more that anyone else
- They were an aggressive crowd, a shove their way in anyway crowd

Note:

They were a crowd with **desperate and demanding desires**. They did not care who, what where or how, they were going to get to Jesus. Even if it meant “steam rolling over the disciples,” Breaking up their meeting, or disrespecting others. They were all about getting their needs and wants taken care of before others.

Application:

This is the crowd that gets in between you and Jesus.

1. Mean and impatient
2. Demanding and rude
3. Selfish and unruly
4. Pushy and brash
5. Needy and over bearing

21. When **his family heard about this**, they went to *take charge* of him, for they said, "**He is out of his mind.**"

II. The Second Crowd (a doubting opposition)

- The second crowd was a personal crowd
- They were guilty of being too casual with God
- They were guilty of being jealous of the time being spent with others
- They were guilty of being over familiar with Jesus (because he was family)
- They thought he had gotten too big for “himself”
- They were upset that the ministry was doing what it was supposed to do and that Jesus was drawing people unto God. So they became indignant with Jesus
- **They claimed that he had lost his mind**
- They thought that Jesus had gone too far with His ideas about God and His plan to follow and obey Him with His life

Note:

1. This crowd was worse than the first crowd, because they had a relationship with Jesus before the numbers became a factor.
2. Now that there were people coming, **they could not handle the idea of Him being the Messiah.**
3. **They were filled with unbelief.** And as a result of their unbelief in Jesus, they became **distracted by Satan.**

Application:

These are our family members and close friends who you know. They have a problem with you being so close to God.

1. They want your time
2. They want your attention
3. They disqualify you for ministry
4. They determine if you are God's choice or not
5. They have issues with you being used by God
6. They say hard things about you, because you are doing things for the lord

22 And the **teachers of the law** who came down from Jerusalem said, "**He is possessed by Beelzebub!** By the **prince of demons** he is driving out demons."

III. The Third Crowd (a devilish opposition)**Note:**

1. This crowd in my opinion was the most diabolical. They handled the Old Testament scriptures and knew the power of Jehovah the self-living one.
2. Yet when it came to recognizing the power of God in the person of Jesus, **they denied God the glory and gave it to the devil instead.**
3. Their theology had **discredited the work** of the Father in Heaven, through the Son on earth.
4. This group of scribes and religious leaders **had been influenced by the under world.** They were drawn by Satan to attack and oppose the work of Jesus.
5. They came specifically to attack, criticize, confront, and cast shame on the work of God. **This crowd was dangerous.**
6. They were dangerous because at one time **they held the peoples attention with their own teachings.** And perhaps still had some influence in their lives.
7. They called him "**Beelzebub**" **lord of the flies.** It was a filthy title given to the prince of the underworld.

Application:

This is that crowd with a different religion. They have political motives. They think that you are too radical. They oppose others following your ideas about Christianity.

- This group is **demonically influenced**
- This group is **poison**
- This group is **focused and attempts** to destroy the ministry
- This group tries to assonate Christian character
- This group is sent by the underworld to oppose the word of God.

They Said:

"He is possessed by Beelzebub! By the **prince of demons** he is driving out demons."

I. The Masters Response to the Crowds

24 If a kingdom is divided against itself, that kingdom cannot stand.

Note:

- Jesus is reflecting on the earthly rule and reign that Satan has.
- The kingdom of darkness **is where Satan's dominion** is on earth.(where he rules from)
- This kingdom is not at war within itself.
- Satan cannot afford to be divided, because **the Kingdom of God has come** to earth to oppose him and to conquer his rule.

25 If a house is divided against itself, that house cannot stand.

Note:

- Jesus wants the scribes to understand that Satan cannot dwell in a divided house.
- The houses in this text refer to the lives of men. Satan likes to occupy human beings, and Jesus does also.
- But Jesus and Satan cannot occupy the same house. When Jesus came into peoples lives Satan had to leave.
- He can't (Satan cannot dwell in a divided house)

26 And if Satan opposes himself and is divided, he cannot stand; his end has come.

Note:

- Middle Eastern culture was keen on believing that evil spirits could cast out evil spirits. This is why they said Jesus worked by the spirit of Beelzebub.
- Beelzebub was said to be the prince, and lord of all evil spirits.
- Jesus say's if Satan is divided against himself he cannot stand

- *Therefore Christ could not be on the same side as Satan, He was against every thing that Satan did on earth. He was actually casting Him out of people.*
- Jesus had come to liberate man from the clutches of the evil one.

Note:

The scribe's doctrine was wrong. Jesus was exposing them to the truth about Satan, and the truth about HIS own power against Satan.

27 In fact, no one can enter a **strong man's house** and carry off his **possessions unless he first ties up the strong man**. Then he can rob his house.

Note:

When the King of glory came to earth, He did the following things to Satan;

1. He beat him in the wilderness (broke his dominion)
2. He cast him out in the synagogues (stole his possessions)
3. He made be muzzled in streets
4. He conquered him in the villages
5. He destroyed his strong holds over humanity

Jesus is the ONE who entered into **the strong man's house, tied him up** and took all that he had.

- Jesus has power over the evil one
- Satan cannot compete with Jesus
- Satan has to flee at the Name of Jesus
- Jesus is superior to Satan, He is Satan's Creator.

II. Judgment pronounced against the Pharisee's

28 I tell you **the truth, all the sins and blasphemies** of men will be forgiven them.

29 But whoever **blasphemes against the Holy Spirit** will never be forgiven; he is guilty of an **eternal sin.**"

1. BLASPHEMY, The word "blas-phemy" (two words; Blas means to injure and (phemy) is related to speech
2. It means to injure with strong speech. **To speak in a defamatory way of the Divine.**
3. However, it is more serious than just speaking injuring words. It is dealing with a condition of the heart! It is a heart that is set on rejecting, denying, discrediting, and not believing in God. **(To speak against God from the heart.)**

Note:

- **The Pharisees had not as yet done this; but in charging Jesus with being in league with hell they were displaying beforehand** a wicked determination to shut their eyes to all the evidence, of him being God.
 - They were bordering in their spirits of committing the unpardonable sin.
1. Jesus mentioned this because if they could deny him, they could not deny **the works that he came to do** and was doing, for the miracles could not be denied.
 2. **His works alone proved that he was the promised Messiah** who the Old Testament claimed would come. These works were done by the **HOLY SPIRIT**.

Application:

- If some one rejects **the works of the Holy Spirit they cannot be saved**. It is the Spirit **that regenerates**, makes alive, redeems, and is responsible for the New Birth.
- **Without the Spirit of the living God man cannot be saved**. To reject His work is to reject Him. To reject Him is to not believe in Him.
- **To not believe in Him is to send oneself into eternal separation** from **God in Hell**.
- From this sin there is no salvation. From this sin **there is no help**. From this sin there is **no redemption**.

Note:

Believers cannot commit the unpardonable sin. Believers cannot blaspheme against the Holy Spirit. **Because HE dwells in the believer**. The Christian has trusted God for salvation, and is sealed with the Spirit upon confession of his/hers sins. They are instantly born again.

- The unregenerate sinner who refuses to come to Jesus and who rejects the Spirit of God's prompting to come to him **is the one who commits such a sin**.
- The one, who rejects salvation, rejects the Holy Spirit.
- If a person rejects the Holy Spirit they have no other option but to enter eternity without Jesus.
- The Holy Spirit can't save someone who will not believe.
- The Holy Spirit will not rescue the man who does not want to be rescued.
- The Holy Spirit will not spare the soul that rejects his grace.

Conclusion:

1. Remember Calvary!
2. The Two Thieves!
3. One believed and one didn't!
4. One trusted the Spirit and one didn't
5. One confessed Jesus and One didn't
6. One blasphemed against God and one didn't
7. One was saved and one wasn't.
8. One went to paradise and one didn't
9. One went to hell and one didn't

There is no help for the one who "Blasphemes against the Holy Spirit" for He has rejected the free gift of God. At the cross Jesus forgave all sins. Through his death he took our place for sin against God. He was buried in a borrowed tomb, and early Sunday morning he arose from the grave with all power of heaven and earth in His hands.

Home work:

Please write a 200 word essay on what you have learned from this lesson, and how you will apply it to your life?