

INSIDERS AND OUTSIDERS

Mark 3:7-35

Discuss review questions from the previous lesson.

DAY 1: MARK 3:7-12—THE CRUSH AND THE CRY

1. What are the various groups of key players in this brief account?
2. What causes the crush around the Lord?
3. Look at a map of Israel to gain a perspective on the range of Jesus' fame (3:8). (Most Bibles have maps in the back.) Considering the limitations of mobility and social/religious divisions, what do you discover?

DAY 2: MARK 3:13-19—THE CALL

4. What was Jesus' intention in appointing the Twelve (3:14-15)?
5. What impressions do you get of the disciples from Mark's record? (Read 7:14-18; 9:30-32; 10:35-39; 14:50, 66-72.)
6. What do you observe about those who choose to follow Jesus?
7. What do the following Scriptures communicate about what it means to be a disciple?
 - a. Matthew 10:16-24; 16:24-25
 - b. Mark 10:17-23
 - c. Luke 9:57-62; 14:25-33
 - d. John 15:18-27

DAYS 3 & 4: MARK 3:20-30—THE CHARGE

8. In Mark 3:20-21, what group opposes Jesus, and what charge do they make against Him?

9. What do you think causes them to make these charges?

10. In Mark 3:22-30, what group opposes Jesus, and what charge do they make?

11. How does Jesus highlight the absurdity of this charge?

12. Using a dictionary, define *blaspheme* or *blasphemy*.

13. Why is the accusation against Jesus in this passage perceived as blasphemy against the Holy Spirit? (See Matthew 1:18-20; Luke 3:21-22; 4:18.)

DAY 5: MARK 3:31-35—THE QUESTION AND THE CONCLUSION

14. How do you think Jesus may have felt about His family's concerns (see also 3:20-21)?

15. How is Jesus' commitment similar to what He expected of His disciples? (See question 7).

16. If *your* family lacks understanding of your interest in or commitment to Jesus, how does that make you feel? What have you learned about how to cope with this disconnect?

DAY 6: PARTICIPATE IN CLASS

APPLY what you have learned. In this narrative we have witnessed Jesus' response to the onslaught of evil spirits, the accusations of religious leaders, and the doubts and demands of His earthly family. His responses may seem controversial or even out of character. Nevertheless, Jesus communicated clearly how membership in God's family is demonstrated: "*Whoever does the will of God, he is My brother and sister and mother*" (Mark 3:35). In what ways are you—or could you be—a good brother or sister to your big Brother, Jesus?