**​Towards a Shared Mission**

Hope Chapel Honolulu

Mark 3:1-19

13 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.

(Mark 3:13-15, ESV)

**Introduction**

It was the very same synagogue in which Christ had exorcised that demon which had shrieked out in recognition of the Son of God where these Jewish leaders tried to set a trap for Jesus. Again they had tried to defame Christ or defuse His growing influence by making Him out to be a “sabbath-breaker.” But as Christ entered the synagogue and saw this man with a withered hand, the Lord of the Sabbath once again revealed the power, love and faithfulness of God despite the Jewish leaders’ desire to trap and destroy Him.

**1. The Lord of the Sabbath shows and tells the grace and truth of God. (Mark 3:1-6)**

 a) It sure looks like the Jewish religious leaders tried to set up Jesus so that they could accuse Him.

 b) Christ’s words and works, however, revealed a deeper understanding of the Sabbath.

**2. Thousands are drawn by the power and authority of the Son of God. (Mark 3:7-12)**

 a) Christ’s fame had already spread throughout most of the Promised Land.

 b) Christ’s power and authority over demons and disease could no longer be hidden.

**3. Christ begins to share His mission and authority. (Mark 3:13-19)**

 a) Christ called the Twelve to be sent out to preach and to cast out demons.

 b) Even Judas Iscariot, who later betrayed Christ, appears to have shared the same authority.

**Conclusion**

Christ’s ministry takes on an increasingly public posture as He not only shows and tells the power, love and faithfulness of God, but initially calls a dozen men from among those who had begun to follow Him that they might share His ministry and authority. While these men had probably been following Christ for far less than two years, they were given the same authority and mission that Christ had been given: to declare the kingdom of God was near, to call people to repentance and faith, and to bear witness to these truths through the power, love and faithfulness of God working in, through and around their lives.

**For our prayerful study, discussion and application:**

1) Read Mark 3:1-6. What does Jesus seem to know about the Sabbath that His accusers didn’t know?

2) Compare and contrast Mark 3:13-19 with Luke 6:12-16. What do you learn from these passages?

3) What are the Word and Spirit of God showing and telling you about discipleship today?

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