

April 22, 2017 – Elmont Baptist Church

Message Series: The Gospel of Mark

Week 14: “...And He Appointed...”

Text: Mark 3:7-35

We have launched into unpacking and understanding the Book of Mark. Mark’s audience is Romans believers, and as theologian Danny Akin says, “he is telling them that Jesus is the Messiah King and suffering servant who actively ministers on our behalf and gives his life as a ransom for many.”

We’ve been watching a steadily increasing tension between the religious leaders and Jesus, and that will continue today. We’re going to step back or zoom out of the text today and take a high level look at where we’ve been and how Mark, the writer, is putting this all together. He is very strategic – REVIEW ON PAGE 2

Just Look at Jesus

✓ Jesus Calls the Broken In – v 7-12, 20

- To be set free from sin
- To be set free to love Him

Not everyone will respond to Jesus with a changed heart that loves Jesus, but that doesn’t determine whether Jesus heals or serves them.

✓ Jesus Creates the Church – v 13-19, 33-35

- To send out His Followers
- To powerfully proclaim the Kingdom (do the will of God)

This is extraordinary! The word “appointed” means “to make, form, or fashion”. This is about Jesus creating, fashioning, the church. We don’t always think of Jesus in Creator terms. Look at John 1:1-4; Col 1:15-16; Heb 1:1-3. This same creative power is forming the church in its infancy and it’s just as significant and amazing as the Creation account in Genesis. Let’s think Genesis and the mandate given to Adam & Eve in The Garden – Paraphrase “go and make the rest of the earth look like this”. Now compare that to the Great Commission – “go and make disciples”. One is about physical transformation, and the other is about spiritual transformation. From Genesis to Revelation, God is writing a story that over and over displays His work has purpose and power. The Church, the Bride of Christ, is a big deal as it is the creative work of the Grand Creator. Don’t water down the significance of the Church and our mission of doing God’s will. Each of us has a part in this mission. The Church is at work outside the walls of the bldg she gathers in each week.

✓ Jesus & the Church are Opposed – v 21-32

- From the inside & outside
- To discredit & dilute the Gospel

Disclaimer – we will dive into the “unforgivable sin” in a couple of weeks.

Mark strategically records the creation of the Church and follows it up with immediate opposition. Again, think back to the “Garden” – Creation, commission or mandate, opposition. One group, Jesus’ family, attributes His good work to insanity, says He is crazy, and another group, the religious leaders, attribute to the devil, the deceiver, the liar. The enemy is working here to discredit the Gospel. The message of the Gospel is that God is perfectly good and we are hopelessly sinful, and by repenting of that sin and believing in Jesus as the Son of God and by His perfect life, sacrificial death, victorious resurrection, and glorious ascension, we can be forgiven of all our sin, and know and love God for all eternity. Any other message that dilutes the Gospel by adding works, or makes the goal something other than knowing and loving God is in opposition to Jesus and His Church. A proclamation of the Gospel that doesn’t call people to repent and believe, is a watered-down gospel at best, heresy at most. We think of opposition as obvious and easy to notice, but here’s how it looks in the United States – video.

We discredit and dilute the Gospel in our own lives when we pursue our own happiness and not the glory of God.

Bottom line:

To “zoom out” and look at Jesus more intently today, will hopefully affect our heart. We need to see Him as more than a doer of good deeds. He shows us how to love and serve people, and then we see that He created the Church to continue this mission of proclaiming Good News and helping people experience freedom from bondage here and forever. And as you and I do this in cooperation, as the church, we will face opposition from inside and outside. We will be tempted to dilute the Gospel by dismissing the call the repent AND believe in the Good News.

Thinking it Through...

- ✓ Are you more often burdened for or bothered by the broken?
- ✓ Do you more often praise God for or complain to others about the church?
- ✓ Do you work harder to pursue what God wants or what you want?

Storying Mark 3:7-36

We're taking a high level look at this passage. We will dig into it more deeply over the next 2-3 weeks. So there may be great questions about the "unforgivable sin" and others, but try not to spend time going there just yet. We'll take that head on in the next little while. Also reflect back to last week's notes, since most groups did not get the chance to cover those in SG.

- **Questions**

- **Observation:** (emphasize that these are rather obvious answers)
 - What day of the week is the focus here?
 - Who all is involved in this passage?
 - What are Pharisees trying to do (3:2)?
- **Interpretation:**
 - Have someone ready John 1:1-4; Col. 1:15-16; Heb. 1:1-3. List all the things that these passages tell us Jesus is and has done?
 - How does this help you to think about Jesus with greater adoration?
 - If Jesus also created (from the word appointed) the church. What does it say about how important the church is?
- **Application:** Use the "Thinking it Through" questions as needed
 - Are your thoughts about Jesus being elevated the longer you know Him?
 - The Creator of the heavens and the earth created the Church – meaning it was His best idea to make disciples and reach the nations with the Gospel. Does your commitment to His church (think relationships, not bldg or schedule) resemble that you believe that?

Review:

Remember and look for:

Mark is presenting Jesus as the Servant King – the Messiah who serves others and will ultimately give His life for others.

Chapter 1

- 1:9-13 – Jesus is commissioned and tested into public ministry
- 1:14-15 – His mission is laser-focused: to call people to repent and believe in the Gospel
- 1:16-20 – Repentance and belief – turning from our old way of life to Jesus – are illustrated by the call of Andrew, Peter, James, & John.
- 1:21-29 – The message of the Good News – freedom from bondage – is illustrated by demons being cast out and disease being healed
- 1:40-2:17 – *We see Jesus being sovereign (all-powerful) over our sin* – no matter whether it's a result of your past or your pride
- 2:18-22 – *We see Jesus being all-powerful over our piety* – all our religious acts and disciplines. They are meant to increase your enjoyment of Him, not to try to appease Him.
- 2:23-27-3:6 – *We see Jesus being all-powerful over the whole system of religion* – The goal is to grow in relationship with Jesus, and love others and meet needs like Him, not to serve a religious schedule and just attend a gathering. If it doesn't point us to loving and becoming more like Jesus, then we are misusing or abusing it.