

Oct 14th 2007: Series in Mark No 4: Acceptance and Opposition: Mark 3:13-35

One of the things that we will notice.....as we go thro.....**is that Jesus** always gets a reaction
They either like or.....Accept.....or reject.....And often in very intense ways

The section.....**3:13-35**..presents.....**Acceptance alongside Opposition**....very clearly
It commences in v13 with people responding to the call.....and going to Him. And the 12
Then continues in v20 with first His family.....then the teachers of.....proclaiming opposition

***It's interesting that still today.....if you want to stir people up.....and get a
reaction one way or.....
You get them into a discussion.....about their personal religious beliefs***

And of course that's what Jesus was constantly doing.....Calling people to respond to Him.....
By virtue of what He did.....Or what He said

- **In v13-19**.....it is a very definite call for a commitment to follow Him...that Jesus gives
Verse 13 says.....(*Several of you can remember a time when a preacher.....and you heard...walked:
Jesus is doing the same thing here...*)

What we must not miss.....**is the deep symbolism behind His action**.....**He went up...to do it**

- **Jesus set Himself apart as One come from God**...that is so obvious in Mark's....
And for the Jews.....to have One in their midst from God.....was neither unusual or unexpected
They had a history of such people.....like Abraham.....Moses....the Prophets

But they did expect a Prophet type...perform actions full of symbolic meaning...as directed by God
And often they did such....on top of mountains
* Abraham about to sacrifice Isaac
* Moses receiving the ten commandments
* Elijah drawing down fire from heaven

Here we find Jesus going to the top of a mountain.....**And His purpose** there
To appoint 12 men....as His Apostles.....His special messengers....To whom He gives
Authority to preach His message.....and authority over the powers of evil

CAN YOU IMAGINE ANYONE OTHER THAN JESUS BEING ABLE TO DO THAT !

The symbolism though....went way beyond that for His Jewish audience

You see....The Jewish Nation(Kingdom).....made up of God...appoint....12 tribes.....(even the king)
Here Jesus appoints....as the basis for His new Kingdom of Heaven.....**12 Apostles**

The implication for the Jews is clear.....The old order is past.....The new wine of.....needs new
The Government is now upon His shoulders....and He,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,

- **The 12 that Jesus chose to be.....are a diverse group**

Three of them had been given nicknames.....Simon.....James and John....Sons of thunder
No doubt about their personalities....temperaments

One was a zealot....pledged to kill Romans or Jews who collaborated.....

And another a tax...who worked for.....

But it is encouragingthat Jesus doesn't just call the obvious.....

It is also encouraging to note.....that the first reason Jesus had...for calling the 12

→ **was for them to be with Him**

- **What Jesus wants from you and me as a priority**.....is not a lot of busyness doing His work

But the time spent alone with Him.....

Sometimes it's nigh imposs to get to a worship

But its never imposs to do the more important thing.....Spend time with Jesus

HOW much time are you spending with Him ??

And I sense that such was what Jesus wanted from all who came to Him on.....Not just from 12

Look again at v13

Jesus went up a mountainside and called to Him those he wanted, and they came to Him

And then the Greek text suggests....that from the whole group who came....He appointed 12

That was in no way a rejection of the others.....for we see here that Jesus called those He wanted

And we know that Jesus wants all to come to Him

→ **Those** who traveled up.....did so.....because they new Jesus wanted them

How wonderful to know that Jesus wants me....(a sunbeam,,)

These weren't the ones who came out of curiosity.....**Who** came for what they could get

Who loved to see the show

These were those who were willing.....to put themselves out to be with Jesus
To endure the good and the hard times.....just to be with Him

It's my belief....that we meet this group again.....**when we come to v31**

*Then Jesus' mother and brothers arrived. Standing outside,
they sent someone in to call Him.....*

(Obviously they are in a house...There's a crowd...:...Notice how they are sitting....AROUND)

*A crowd was sitting around Him, and they told Him, "Your mother and brothers
are outside looking for you." "Who are my mother and my brothers?" He asked.
Then He looked at those seated in a circle around Him and said, "Here are my
mother and my brothers! Whoever does God's will is my brother and sister and mother."*

I have a picture in my mind here of believers....like you and me....sitting around Jesus daily
We are so close to Him.....that He looks upon us as His family
So near to Him that His love touches us constantly

And because we are around.....we are the link between Him.....and those who are yet to know Him
We pass on to them....what we hearfeel....experience from Him
He speaks through us....to the hearts of others:

ARE we doing that ?? p266 John R Mott

But at times there are those....who refuse to see Jesus as we do
They neither seek Him.....But they don't choose to ignore Him either
They are often angry.....hurting.....frustrated....hostile.....**And they seek** to attack Him
By attacking those around Him.....perhaps youperhaps me

- **The look....the comment.....the cruel trick....the spiteful attitude**
So hard to take.....and we show love...patience...caring.....and seemingly get nowhere
Yet our Lord draws us closer...
Sometimes He protects....But always He promises...more is happening
And always He gently reminds us....that we are family

- **It's this opposition that we see here in this section**
Mark uses a literary device called a Markan sandwich

He begins a story about the opposition to Jesus from His family.....**v21**
But then he inserts a story of major opposition from the teachers in v22-30
and then in v31 he returns to the story about the family

He does this to let us know...that although the oppositions are so diff...in the end they mean the same

- **We have the family**.....They want to take Him away.....To stop Him ministering
They claim that he has gone mad

Why would they do that? Perhaps they thought they were protecting him.....
Maybe they were embarrassed.....Perhaps they were suffering because of what He was doing
Good intentioned may be.....**But** still opposing the King of kings and Lord

- **Then we have these Teachers**....the scribes and Pharisees
Their opposition is ugly.....Their aim is to destroy His character.....Thus His impact
They are jealous....bigotted.....judgmental

And seeing they cannot claim that He does not heal.....or that He does not cast out
there is much too much evidence for them to say that

They proclaim openly and loudly...that He uses evil powers to do what He does
They even suggest that He is possessed by Beelzebub.....the prince of.....Satan

Jesus' response is brilliant.....He makes them look silly actually.....just by showing how ridic..
At the same time....He lets us know.....that even this **early**.....**He** has already triumphed over
He has the strong man tied up.....And tho the evil one still attacks.....He can go so far and no....

But Jesus also lets them know.....that by attributing what the Spirit does thro Him....to Satan
They are on extremely dangerous ground.....**THE sin** that cannot be forgiven....is right b4....persist

By saying that the Spirit working in Jesus is evil....

They close the only door by which ...anyone can ever gain forgiveness: No forgiveness....elsewhere
(*imagine a man set in his ways.....told that a fire.....He rejects the fire extinguishes....*)

People who die rejecting Jesus.....will never be forgiven.....That's the unpardonable sin

Whether they reject Him in a soft way

As His family did

Or in an harsh way.....as those Pharisees did.....THE outcome is the same

But praise God..... in Jesus all the sins and blasphemies of men can be forgiven

In this Jesus....who so loves you.....Who desires you for Himself....can be found
Absolute pardon for every wrong doing...Total cleansing from all guilt....Peace b4 every accusation

He so wants you to be part of that circle that surrounds Him.....if you are not already
But you have to make the first move.....

To climb the mountain of excuses.....

of feelings of unworthiness.....

of procrastination

Today Jesus waits for you to become part of His family.....

Or perhaps you know.....that you have drifted a little from His side

You feel away from Him.....From that family relationship with Him

He knows that too.....and He simply wants you to admit it.....and seek His face all over again

For He has never moved away.....

He stands before you today.....his hand reaches....cleansing

Place your hand in His.....Know again the joy of your Salvation

