

## Are you wondering what it means to be a Christian?

Jesus said, "All that the Father gives me will come to me, and the one who comes to me I will never drive away" (John 6:37). Jesus also said, "No one can come to me unless the Father who sent me draws him; and I will raise him up on the last day" (John 6:44).

If you are feeling drawn to Christ, it is because God the Father is drawing you; it is not a desire we can or will create within ourselves. This also means that there is no sin too great to be forgiven, and no past too sinful to be overcome. You can trust Christ to receive you because it is God the Father who is drawing you to find true repentance and receive the gift of faith. You can know a new life in Jesus Christ.

We would love to talk and pray with you about this or any other spiritual needs you may have. Please see Pastor Mark or one of our elders after today's service to do so.

## Are you interested in Baptism or Church Membership?

Please indicate your interest on the back of your Connection Card and Pastor Mark or one of the elders will be in touch with you this week to set up a time to meet with you.

## GOD'S SERVANT RESPONDS TO PRESSURE

Mark 2:18-3:6

**Main Thought:** In Mark 3:7-35 Jesus faces pressure from three sources and shows us how to respond to such pressure.

1. \_\_\_\_\_ FROM THE CROWD (vv 7-20)
  - 1) The pressure – Huge \_\_\_\_\_ were following and gathering around Jesus.
  - 2) Jesus' \_\_\_\_\_ – Recruiting, training, and delegating ministry to disciples.
  - 3) \_\_\_\_\_ for us: There is no such thing as a "Lone Ranger" Christian. We need to work together.
  
2. PRESSURE FROM THE \_\_\_\_\_ LEADERS (vv 22-30)
  - 1) The pressure – Religious \_\_\_\_\_ accuse Jesus of being demon possessed.
  - 2) Jesus' \_\_\_\_\_
    - (1) Would Satan \_\_\_\_\_ out Satan?
    - (2) A \_\_\_\_\_ man must first be bound before his house can be robbed.
    - (3) The \_\_\_\_\_ sin: Blasphemy against the Holy Spirit.
  - 3) Application for us: We will face \_\_\_\_\_. Remember, greater is He that is in you, than he that is in the world (1 Jn. 4:4).
  
3. PRESSURE FROM JESUS' \_\_\_\_\_ (vv 21, 31-35)
  - 1) The pressure – Jesus' family thinks he is out of his \_\_\_\_\_.
  - 2) Jesus' \_\_\_\_\_ – Whoever does God's will is Jesus family.
  - 3) Application for us:
    - (1) \_\_\_\_\_ Christ may bring division within families.
    - (2) There is a deeper kinship than flesh and blood, a \_\_\_\_\_ kinship with fellow believers.

## **ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS FOR GROWTH GROUPS**

1. In prayer ask the Holy Spirit to guide you and reveal God's truth to you as you read Mark 3:7-35.

2. What do you learn about Jesus from this passage?

3. What do you learn about human beings and yourself from this passage?

4. Is there anything you didn't understand in the passage? Were you able to find an answer for your question(s)? If so, what did you discover?

5. What lessons do you learn from this passage and how will you apply them to your life this week?

### 6. Digging Deeper

1) What kind of pressure was Jesus facing from the crowds? How did it affect Him? (vv 7-12, 20)

2) What were the demons trying to do when calling Jesus the "Son of God"? Why did Jesus command them to be silent? (v 12)

3) How did Jesus respond to the pressure from the crowd? How did He choose His first disciples? What did he call them to do? (vv13-17)

4) What stands out to you about the men Jesus' called to be his first disciples? Is there anything significant about the fact that He calls twelve? (vv 14-19)

5) Where did the religious leaders come from who confront Jesus? What do they accuse him of? (vv 22)

6) How does Jesus logically counter their accusation and what additional information does he provide in his answer? (vv 23-28)

7) What is the unpardonable sin? How do you commit it? (vv 28-30)

8) Why did Jesus family think he was out of his mind? What did they plan to do about it? What do we learn from Jesus response to them? (vv 20-21, 31-33)