

# The New Me Gets Alone with God

Redefining the New Me

Message 15: Mark Series

1.28.18

Mark 3:13–19 (NIV)

<sup>13</sup> Jesus went up on a mountainside and called to him those he wanted, and they came to him. <sup>14</sup> He appointed twelve that they might be with him and that he might send them out to preach <sup>15</sup> and to have authority to drive out demons. <sup>16</sup> These are the twelve he appointed: Simon (to whom he gave the name Peter), <sup>17</sup> James son of Zebedee and his brother John (to them he gave the name Boanerges, which means “sons of thunder”), <sup>18</sup> Andrew, Philip, Bartholomew, Matthew, Thomas, James son of Alphaeus, Thaddaeus, Simon the Zealot <sup>19</sup> and Judas Iscariot, who betrayed him.

## 1. Last week saw that Jesus surrounded himself with the right people.

A. Jesus was not immune to negativity.

1. He had his critics.
2. He had those completely opposed to him.
3. So last week, Mark 3:7 says that Jesus withdrew from the Pharisees and that a large crowd followed.
4. Sometimes, we all need to put some distance between ourselves and our negative voices.
5. However, it isn't enough to run away from something.
6. We must also surround ourselves with the right people.

B. We all need two kinds of people in our lives.

1. Those who love Jesus and encourage us.

2. Those who need Jesus and challenge us.
3. Jesus was very strategic in the people who were with Him.
  - a. Jesus couldn't determine who was in the crowd.
  - b. But He did determine who had complete access to his life.

C. God created us be a relational people.

1. But we can only maintain a surprisingly small number of relationships.
2. A psychologist by the name of Dunbar conducted research that shows that we can only manage 150 relationships at varying levels of intimacy.<sup>1</sup>
  - a. That number of 150 is divided up into four layers.
  - b. He says we generally can only have 5 intimate friends,
  - c. 15 close friends,
  - d. 50 friends,
  - e. The rest are more acquaintances.
3. This type of grouping is very similar to what Jesus practiced.
  - a. He ministered to crowds of thousands.
  - b. He sent out 70 disciples and 120 were present when Jesus ascended heaven.
  - c. He called 12 men to follow him closely as disciples.
  - d. And he had 3 that He gave complete access to (Peter, James, and John).

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.psychologytoday.com/blog/wired-success/201408/is-there-limit-the-friendships-we-can-maintain>

## 2. Jesus called twelve men to a deeper level of commitment and relationship.

<sup>13</sup> Jesus went up on a mountainside and called to him those he wanted, and they came to him. <sup>14</sup> He appointed twelve that they might be with him and that he might send them out to preach <sup>15</sup> and to have authority to drive out demons.

A. I find this pretty unique.

1. Jesus had already called Peter, James, John, Matthew and others to follow Him.
2. They had already left their jobs and their families to follow Jesus.
3. They had witnessed miracles, supernatural encounters, and experienced persecution for Jesus' sake.
4. So why would Jesus call these men again?

B. Jesus isn't satisfied with people who keep him in the friend zone.

1. Do you remember the friend zone from your dating days?
  - a. That girl likes you.
  - b. She talks to you.
  - c. But won't ever go out with you.
  - d. "Let's just stay friends, OK?"
2. This friend zone makes up the majority of our relationships.
  - a. People you know by face, and maybe remember their name.
  - b. But you don't share life with them.
  - c. Most people in our lives are part of the 150 not the 5 or 15.
3. Jesus had a large group of people following him.

- a. Yet he chose a small group from within the crowd to have unlimited access to his life.
- b. Jesus was modeling for us the power of small-groups.
- c. (If you are not part of a Sunday morning or Wednesday night small group, let me encourage you to find one and get plugged in.)

C. Jesus wasn't focusing on 12 men for his own benefit.

1. He was pouring himself into 12 men so that they might change the world.
2. These twelve men taught and disciplined hundreds.
3. The hundreds disciplined thousands.
4. Today there are 2 Billion Christians worldwide.
5. And it started with Jesus calling 12 men to an intense relationship with Him.

D. Jesus called His disciples to 3 intense focuses:

1. Be with him.
2. Go out and preach.
3. Cast out demons (exercise power over darkness).
4. These 3 intense focuses have the power to radically change who we are, what we do, and how we see the world.

### 3. The New Me is intense with my time with Jesus.

A. The first thing Jesus asked the twelve to do was to "Be with him".

1. Many of us are doers.
  - a. We want to DO something.
  - b. And if we aren't DOING something then we are failing.
2. But before Jesus asked these men to go and do, He asked them to come and "be".

B. To “be” with someone is to take time to enjoy their presence.

1. When was the last time you invested time with someone just to be around them?

a. Hopefully, you have this kind of time with your spouse, kids, or a friend or two.

b. No agenda, and no need of anything.

c. Time between two people to build each other up.

2. Jesus invites His followers to first spend time with him.

a. Getting to know Him through His word and prayer.

b. Taking time to listen instead of talking all the time.

3. It is during this time of being with Jesus that we learn:

a. What he likes,

b. Desires,

c. And His purpose for our lives.

C. Being with Jesus is also vital to a life of spiritual power.

1. Many of us want to do more for Jesus.

2. So we work harder and longer.

3. But often that means we pray less, read less, and worship less.

4. The paradox of Spiritual Disciplines is that time invested being with Jesus multiplies the effectiveness of our efforts to serve Jesus.

5. Martin Luther is reported to have said, “I have so much to do that I shall spend the first three hours in prayer.”

6. This is a guy who understood the value of being with Jesus.

#### 4. The New Me intensely shares Jesus with others.

A. The result of time with Jesus will be a passion to share Him with others.

1. Jesus called the disciples so they "Might be with him..." "that he might send them out to preach"

2. Preaching is presenting the message of Jesus.

a. What I do on Sunday's is preaching.

b. What you do during the week when you brag about Jesus is preaching.

c. Preaching, very simply, is getting the message of Jesus out to others.

B. How important is preaching?

1. Preaching is absolutely critical.

2. Without preaching, no one will be saved.

3. Romans 10:1-15 (NIV)

Brothers and sisters, my heart's desire and prayer to God for the Israelites is that they may be saved. <sup>2</sup> For I can testify about them that they are zealous for God, but their zeal is not based on knowledge.

<sup>3</sup> Since they did not know the righteousness of God and sought to establish their own, they did not submit to God's righteousness. <sup>4</sup> Christ is the culmination of the law so that there may be righteousness for everyone who believes.

<sup>5</sup> Moses writes this about the righteousness that is by the law: "The person who does these things will live by them." <sup>6</sup> But the righteousness that is by faith says: "Do not say in your heart, 'Who will ascend into heaven?' " (that is, to bring Christ down) <sup>7</sup> "or 'Who will descend into the deep?' " (that is, to bring Christ up from the dead). <sup>8</sup> But what does it say? "The word is near you; it is in your mouth and in your heart," that is, the message concerning faith that we proclaim: <sup>9</sup> If you declare with your mouth, "Jesus is Lord," and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. <sup>10</sup> For it is with your heart that you

believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you profess your faith and are saved. <sup>11</sup> As Scripture says, "Anyone who believes in him will never be put to shame." <sup>12</sup> For there is no difference between Jew and Gentile—the same Lord is Lord of all and richly blesses all who call on him, <sup>13</sup> for, "Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved." <sup>14</sup> How, then, can they call on the one they have not believed in? And how can they believe in the one of whom they have not heard? And how can they hear without someone preaching to them? <sup>15</sup> And how can anyone preach unless they are sent? As it is written: "How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news!"

C. We all must be involved in preaching the message of Jesus.

1. And the most important sermons preached during the week are the ones that you preach.
2. What I do is important.
  - a. Messages like this are vital for our growth as individuals and the church.
  - b. But you have opportunities to share Jesus with people that I may never meet.
  - c. It could take years for your friends to trust me enough to believe what I am saying.
  - d. But they may believe you in an instant.
3. We all must invest intense times with Jesus as well as intensely share Jesus with others.
  - a. We are called to both.
  - b. Not one or the other, but both.
  - c. And as we are engaged in both disciplines, we will be called upon to the 3<sup>rd</sup> thing Jesus called us to.

## 5. The New Me must exercise power over darkness.

A. Jesus cast out a lot of demons in his day.

1. One reason was he was showing people and spiritual powers who had the most power.
2. Not only did Jesus do this, but He expected his followers to do the same.

B. But pastor, I don't ever encounter powers of darkness?

1. But you do and you will.
  - a. Examples of darkness are all over the news.
  - b. Many prime examples are incarcerated in our local prison and much more are living in our community.
2. You may encounter spiritual attacks yourself.
  - a. Spiritual darkness is very real.
  - b. And Jesus wants His disciples to overcome darkness with His power.

C. The power to preach and to do miracles rests on a relationship with Jesus.

1. If there is something in your life that you need to overcome, let me encourage you to get alone with Jesus.
2. If you need a breakthrough, let me encourage you to fast and pray.
3. If your spiritual life seems boring, let me encourage to spend time with Jesus and commit to preaching wherever and however God may lead.

Prayer. This morning, I want to give you an opportunity to get alone with God.