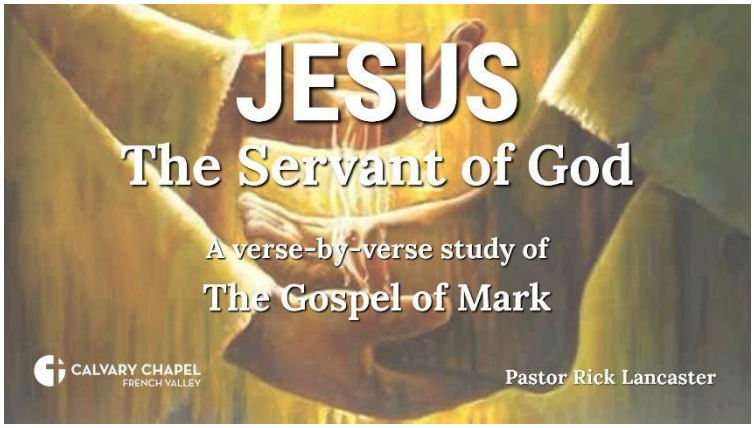

JESUS: The Servant of God

A verse-by-verse study of the Gospel of Mark

The Gospel and the Disciples

Mark 3:13-21

Message #8

Sermon given on November 23, 2025

CALVARY CHAPEL
FRENCH VALLEY

Sunday Morning Service

Pastor Rick Lancaster

The Gospel and the Disciples

Mark 3:13-21

Opening Comments

- Open your Bibles to **Mark 3**
- Today, we begin a series through the gospel of Mark – **JESUS: The Servant of God**
- Let's open this time in our service with a word of prayer. - **Pray**

Teaching

- **The Gospel and the Disciples**
- Have you ever wondered why God chose to save you?
- I have! Of all the people in the world, why choose me?
- And even more, why choose me to serve Him like this.
- Don't get me wrong, sometimes I think I am pretty amazing.
- At least that's what Kelly says about me.
- If you are saved, it is because God chose to save you. **John 15:16**

16 You did not choose Me, but I chose you and appointed you that you should go and bear fruit, and *that* your fruit should remain, that whatever you ask the Father in My name He may give you.

- In our text for this morning, Jesus is going to choose twelve men who will be His closest companions on the earth.
- In the first part of this chapter, Jesus healed a man with a withered hand in the local synagogue.
- The religious guys were very upset because God did radical miracle of restoring a man to wholeness on the Sabbath, the Jewish day of rest.
- He then spent the rest of that Sabbath day healing everyone who came to Him.
- That brings us to our text for today.
- **Mark 3:13**
- Mark gives us the sense that this is the same day as the first part of the chapter.
- Luke's gospel implies it was some days after this.
- Mark says Jesus went up on the mountain and Luke records that Jesus prayed all night to God.

- After He was done praying, Jesus chose twelve men from among those who were following Him to be His apostles.
- Jesus spent the night praying to the Father in the Spirit before choosing these twelve men.
- I have so many questions about this.
- Why did it take all night?
- What was the criterion for choosing these twelve?
- What set them apart from the rest of those who were following Jesus?
- What was wrong with the ones He didn't choose?
- I have an answer to all those questions. I don't know!
- The closest thing to an answer is in this verse.
- Jesus chose those He Himself wanted to choose.
- Too often we are seeking human answers to questions that only have divine answers.
- God does what He does because He wants to do it.
- And our response is, but why?
- As I reflect on God's holiness, love, righteousness, perfection, and everything else that is God, I can accept that He did it because He wanted to do it.
- You don't have to explain or understand everything God does.
- You couldn't even if you tried.
- And if you do try, you will probably get it very wrong.
- It is often best to let God be God and accept what He does as from a loving Father in heaven who knows what is best for everyone and about everything.
- Jesus chose the Twelve and they came to Him.
- Then Jesus changed something about these twelve men.
- **Mark 3:4-5**
- The word appointed can also be translated as ordained.
- To ordain someone in the church is to set them apart from the rest of the body of the church for a specific task within the church.
- In our style of church government, we ordain people in three areas: pastors, elders, and deacons.
- That last one we will be doing at the end of this service.
- Verse 14 goes on to say, 'that they might be with Him'.

- One of the things we do before we ordain someone is test them to confirm that their relationship with Christ is real.
- 2 Timothy 3 gives us the criterion that we use to make that evaluation.
- Mark then tells us the purpose they were appointed or ordained for, 'that He might send them out to preach…'
- When we ordain someone, it is for a purpose.
- Pastors are ordained to shepherd the flock – Elders are ordained to lead the flock – deacons are ordained to serve the flock.
- Those would be their primary responsibilities, but anyone who is ordained is shepherding, leading, and serving.
- Verse 15 says the Twelve were also ordained to 'heal sicknesses and cast out demons…'
- All believers are indwelt by the Holy Spirit, and He still uses His power, the power of God, to do miraculous works in the world.
- The church can ordain or appoint people to serve God in the church or world.
- Only God can ordain people to the supernatural works.
- In 1 Corinthians 12 to 14, the apostle Paul describes how God, the Holy Spirit, distributes what we call spiritual gifts, the supernatural expression of the manifestation of the Holy Spirit through His people.
- Everything God did through His disciples two-thousand years ago, He can and is still doing through people all around the world today.
- It ought to be a regular part of your prayer life asking the Holy Spirit to stir up a miraculous gift within you.
- You might not know this, but God has given every believer at least one spiritual gift. **1 Corinthians 12:7**

7 But the manifestation of the Spirit is given to each one for the profit *of all…*

- Notice the phrase, for the profit of all.
- God, the Holy Spirit distributes the supernatural gifts to every Christ-follower so that the whole church can benefit from them.
- This is one of the reasons why it is important for us to gather as the body of Christ in person, so that we can express the gifts of the Holy Spirit to each other.

- Some are ordained to specific tasks in the body, but everyone is called by God to let the Holy Spirit manifest Himself to the church and to the world through each of us.
- Paul says it is something we should desire. **1 Corinthians 12:31**

31 But earnestly desire the best gifts.

- If you have any questions about that come talk with us.
- Mark then goes on to give us the names of these twelve men.
- **Mark 3:16-19a**
- We know that least four of them were fishermen, one was a tax collector, one was a zealot, one was a Canaanite, and one was a betrayer.
- We have very limited information about the lives of the disciples.
- Like, how many of them were married?
- The only one we know for sure is Peter because Jesus healed his mother-in-law.
- Jesus called them out of their old life and into a new one.
- When God called me into the ministry, I was a salesman.
- When I answered the call, I left that part of my life behind, for something new and infinitely more important.
- When God chose me, I didn't see anything in me that made me worthy of the calling except that I was willing to say yes to God no matter what He asked me to do.
- Jesus chooses these twelve for reasons that only He knows, but there is one that always causes me to pause and reflect.
- Jesus chose Judas, who would betray Him.
- Jesus knew Judas would betray Him.
- Jesus came to the earth and took on human flesh so that He could die for the sins of the whole world.
- Jesus needed someone to serve as a betrayer.
- I wonder if the reason Jesus prayed all night was to choose someone who could spend three years with Him and watch Him live a perfect life and then at the right time, betray Him.
- God didn't make Judas into a betrayer, he was chosen and called because he would betray Jesus, even after Jesus loved him for three years.

- The narrative then shifts locations.
- **Mark 3:19b-21**
- Mark leaves out of his gospel the Sermon on the Mount.
- It would have been in the middle of verse 19.
- Word was getting around that Jesus could heal any disease and cast out any demon and thousands came to be touched by Him.
- Jesus' own people could be His family.
- They thought He had lost His mind.
- If you hear God's call and answer it, there will be some people, maybe some of those who are closest to you who will not understand and might even question your sanity.
- When I responded to God's call, I told my boss, who was a believer, and he responded by telling me I was throwing my life away.
- It surprised me but it didn't deter me.
- That was more than twenty years ago, and I am still convinced it was the right thing for me to do.
- My life was not wasted – now it has a heavenly purpose and eternal value.
- Some people have been called into specific areas of service of God, His church, or the world.
- All of us have been called into His family.
- And then He put us into a family of believers we call CCFV.
- Next Thursday is Thanksgiving.
- It is a good time to remind ourselves what we are thankful to God for.
- I am thankful that Jesus saved me.
- I am thankful for my wife, Kelly, and for my family.
- I am thankful that God put me into the CCFV church family.
- I am thankful to have been called to serve as the pastor here.
- I am thankful for each and every one of you.
- You being in my life has helped me to be better at everything God called me into. Thank you.
- Let's pray and ask the Holy Spirit to help us be mindful of everything we have to be thankful for.
- **Pray – Chad Ordination - Last Song**