

# The Gospel According To Mark

## Part Seven

**Mark 3:13-19** [New King James] *“And He went up on the mountain and called to Him those He Himself wanted. And they came to Him. Then He appointed twelve, that they might be with Him and that He might send them out to preach, and to have power to heal sicknesses and to cast out demons: Simon, to whom He gave the name Peter; James the son of Zebedee and John the brother of James, to whom He gave the name Boanerges, that is, ‘Sons of Thunder’; Andrew, Philip, Bartholomew, Matthew, Thomas, James the son of Alphaeus, Thaddaeus, Simon the Canaanite; and Judas Iscariot, who also betrayed Him. And they went into a house.”*

**We have in this passage of scripture a lesson in authority.**

**Note Jesus called to Him those He wanted, [verse 13].**

**We do not choose what work we do as a Christian, the position is the choice of Jesus Christ, we cannot appoint ourselves to be a servant of Jesus Christ.**

**Serving Jesus Christ is not a career decision, it is a calling.**

Why?

**Note Jesus Christ gave them the power to perform the job of work He had given them, [verse 15].**

**Used rightly authority is a blessing for those who are under it.**

**Mark 10:42-45** [New King James] *“But Jesus called them to Himself and said to them, ‘You know that those who are considered rulers over the Gentiles lord it over them, and their great ones exercise authority over them. Yet it shall not be so among you; but whoever desires to become great among you shall be your servant. And whoever of you desires to be first shall be slave of all. For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many.’”*

When Jesus Christ gives authority to a person it is to enable that person to be a servant to those over whom they have been given authority.

**The apostles understood what being given authority by Jesus Christ really meant and in their letters introduced themselves as servants of Jesus Christ. The Greek word used was “*dōulōs*” meaning a bond slave with no personal “rights” only responsibilities towards their master and the people He had called them to serve.**

Jesus Christ used the word “*dōulōs*” in the above scripture of Himself, [verse 45].

Paul – [Romans 1:1], James – [James 1:1], Peter – [2 Peter 1:1], Jude – [Jude 1], John – [Revelation 1:1].

**Mark 3:20-22** [Amplified Bible] *“Then He went into a house [verse 19, most likely Peter’s] but a throng came together again, so that Jesus and His disciples could not even take food. And when those who belonged to Him [His kinsmen] hear it, they went out to take Him by force, for they kept saying, He is out of His mind, beside Himself, deranged! And the scribes who came down from Jerusalem said, ‘He is possessed by Beelzebub, and by the help of the prince of demons He is casting out demons.’”*

**Matthew 10:34-36** [New King James] *“Do not think that I came to bring peace on earth. I did not come to bring peace but a sword. For I have come to ‘set a man against his father, a daughter against her mother, and a daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law’; and ‘a man’s enemies will be those of his own household.’”*

**Here we see an example of what Jesus Christ had warned might happen to His disciples, was happening to Him.**

This was the result of the blindness of envy.

**Jesus Christ, because of the way He healed people and cast out demons, had become very popular with the crowds.**

**This popularity was not liked even by His own family along with the religious authorities.**

**In this envious reaction –**

The truth was not the governing factor.

God’s will was not a consideration.

The joy of those freed from wicked oppression did **not** matter.

There was only one goal, to discredit the One who made them feel insecure, both Jesus Christ’s family and those religious leaders who did **not** have such power and authority.

**The accusation was absurd, and Jesus exposed this in His response.**

**Mark 3:23-27** [New King James] *“So He called them to Himself and said to them in parables: ‘How can Satan cast out Satan? If a kingdom is divided against itself, that kingdom cannot stand. And if a house is divided against itself, that house cannot stand. And if Satan has risen up against himself, and is divided, he cannot stand, but has an end. No one can enter a strong man’s house and plunder his goods, unless he first binds the strong man. And then he will plunder his house.’”*

**Jesus Christ’s remark goes deeper than the exposure of the silliness of the authority’s accusation. The truth is that the end of Satan’s kingdom had begun because the Son of God had walked onto the stage of human history.**

**Jesus Christ was freeing people from demons because Satan had no power to stop Him.**

**Satan is still being allowed to continue to rule this world at this time for a purpose, that people may experience just how painful and evil society can be when they leave God’s influence out of their lives, [1 John 5:19; 2 Corinthians 4:4; Revelation 12:9; Ephesians 2:2].**

Please download and study our article ‘*A Life That Has Left God Out Of The Reckoning*’ listed under ‘*Human Nature*’.

Satan’s influence will be brought to an end on this earth at the Second Coming of Jesus Christ, this time as ruler and judge, for a period of 1000 years, [**Revelation 20:1-3**] then finally forever [**Revelation 20:10**].

**Mark 3:28-29** [NIV] *“I tell you the truth, all the sins and blasphemies of men will be forgiven them. But whoever blasphemes against the Holy Spirit will never be forgiven; he is guilty of an eternal sin.”*

**This is true because the continual, deliberate, ongoing rejection of the Holy Spirit’s work is the rejection of what God seeks to offer every human being.**

**2 Peter 3:9** [New King James] *“The Lord is not slack concerning His promise, as some count slackness, but is longsuffering toward us, not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance.”*

How do we come to an attitude of repentance, the first step towards salvation from eternal death?

**John 16:7-8** [New King James] *“Nevertheless I tell you the truth. It is to your advantage that I go away; for if I do not go away, the Helper will not come to you; but if I depart, I will send Him to you. And when He has come, He will convict the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment:”*

**Conviction of our sins is the start of our path towards repentance.**

Understanding what is true righteousness, **not** false self-righteousness, is another part of our journey towards salvation.

The work of the Holy Spirit is also to remind us that we all will face the judgement of Jesus Christ, [2 Corinthians 5:10-12].

**If we reject this work of the Holy Spirit we are rejecting all that our Creator God wants us to become and experience.**

**Let me remind you once more of the very reason that the Creator God brought into being human beings.**

**Genesis 1:26-27** [New King James] *“Then God said, ‘Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness; let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth.’ So God created man in His own image; in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them.”*

**This is the two-part plan for all human beings.**

“Image” is the translation of the Hebrew word “*tselem*” meaning a resemblance, shadow, outward form.

**This is all that was created and continues to be created in every human being born in every generation.**

Notice the second part of this first and every human being ever born since is described by a different word “*likeness*” which is the translation of a different Hebrew word “*demûwth*” which means manner, attributes or character.

**As we know, character can only be formed over a period of time spent in the presence of the one whose character we wish to reflect. This is why each human being will eventually be able to know and experience the presence of the Creator God.**

**Again this is the work of the Holy Spirit.**

**Galatians 5:22-25** [New King James] *“But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control. Against such there is no law. And those who are Christ’s have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit.”*

These “*fruits*” of the Holy Spirit, that will gradually become ours when we walk with Him on a daily basis, are the very God-like characteristics of God the Father and His Son Jesus Christ.

**These characteristics must become ours if we are to receive the gift of eternal life, [Romans 6:23] and spend eternity in the presence of God the Father and Jesus Christ, [John 17:3].**

**Mark 3:30** [New King James] *“because they said, ‘He has an unclean spirit.’”*

**The fact that the religious leaders attributed the expelling of demons to the work of Satan, was blasphemy against the Holy Spirit.**

**John 15:4-5** [New King James] *“Abide in Me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in Me. I am the vine, you are the branches. He who abides in Me, and I in him, bears much fruit; for without Me you can do nothing.”*

**Without Jesus Christ abiding within us we can accomplish nothing of lasting value as human beings.**

**John 14:15-18** [New King James] *“If you love Me, keep My commandments. And I will pray the Father, and He will give you another Helper, that He may abide with you forever, the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees Him nor knows Him; but you know Him, for He dwells with you and will be in you. I will not leave you orphans; I will come to you.”*

**It is through the active indwelling of the Holy Spirit that Jesus Christ will live His life again in us.**

**John 5:19, 30** [New King James] *“Then Jesus answered and said to them, ‘Most assuredly, I say to you, the Son can do nothing of Himself, but what He sees the Father do; for whatever He does, the Son also does in like manner.’” ... “I can of Myself do nothing. As I hear, I judge; and My judgment is righteous, because I do not seek My own will but the will of the Father who sent Me.”*

**Jesus Christ as the human Son of Man did nothing of himself, [John 8:28].**

**Hebrews 9:14** [NIV] *“How much more, then, will the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself unblemished to God, cleanse our consciences from acts that lead to death, so that we may serve the living God!”*

**It was the eternal Holy Spirit, God in the human Jesus Christ, did all the work, including the healings, casting out of demons and living a sin-free life, [Hebrews 4:15].**

**Mark 3:31-35** [New King James] *“Then His brothers and His mother came, and standing outside they sent to Him, calling Him. And a multitude was sitting around Him; and they said to Him, ‘Look, Your mother and Your brothers are outside seeking You.’ But He answered them, saying, ‘Who is My mother, or My brothers?’ And He looked around in a circle at those who sat about Him, and said, ‘Here are My mother and My brothers! For whoever does the will of God is My brother and My sister and mother.’”*

In this passage of scripture we are shown the true conditions of eternal kinship.

Kinship is **not** solely a matter of flesh and blood, it is made in having certain things in common with another human being.

**Common experience –**

Especially when two people have come through an experience together.

It has been said that two people really become friends when they say to each other, *“Do you remember when...?”*

**All Christians have the common experience of being forgiven sinners.**

### **Common interest –**

Only when a group of people are bound together by a common interest does a real feeling of kinship come into being.

**Christians have this common interest in the Word of God, the Christian Bible, that reveals to us what our Creator God is like and what plans He has for all human beings.**

### **Common obedience –**

The first disciples were a very mixed group, with all kinds of beliefs and opinions. But they were all bound together because they all had accepted Jesus Christ as their Master and Lord.

### **Common goal –**

**There is nothing that binds people together more than when they all have a common goal.**

**Every Christian has the common goal of eternal life as a created child of God in the Kingdom of God.**

On whatever else we may differ, this we as Christians all agree when we are shown us that it is the whole goal of human life.