

Mark 3:13-22 – Kingdom Helpers; Kingdom Hurters

TSK, GreekLexicon, Gill, Trapp, INT, Geneva, Poole, Robertson, JFB, Calvin, Barnes, Henry, Handfuls, Clarke, Eclectic, Brothers and Sisters in Jesus Christ: There are two other things that are as certain as death and taxes: You need **kingdom workers** for Christ's kingdom to expand. You will **face opposition** when you are working to expand Christ's kingdom.

Today you will see how the Lord had to deal with both of these certainties.

Our headings are:

Help for Kingdom Work

Hindrances to Kingdom Work

Our goals are: **That you will learn to appreciate the blessing of kingdom workers, and that you will help to alleviate the hindrances that come to kingdom workers.**

Help for Kingdom Work

13 And He went up on the mountain and **called** to Him **those He Himself wanted**. And they came to Him.

1. Jesus invited those he thought would be helpful to come to his kingdom's cause. And according to Luke, he went up the mountain to pray that night – all night. He knew the benefit of close communion with his Father, **especially as he was going to make an important decision.** And he only invited **certain disciples, not just anyone.**

2. Those whom Jesus called responded. It was an irresistible call—like the call to salvation. They were not called because they were good. They were called because God was good and wanted to give them the honor of serving in his kingdom.

14 Then He appointed twelve, that they might **be with Him** and that He might **send them out to preach,**

3. Jesus anointed the 12 he called as Apostles. He probably laid hands on them, consistent with Jewish tradition.

Luke 6:13 And when it was day, He called His disciples to *Himself*; and from them He chose twelve whom **He also named apostles:**

“Apostles” means “ones who are sent with a specific important task.” **Twelve was as significant number.** There were 12 tribes of Israel who needed to hear the Gospel. The 12 apostles had to judge the 12 tribes of Israel.

Matthew 19:28... "Assuredly I say to you, that in the regeneration, when the Son of Man sits on the throne of His glory, you who have followed Me will also **sit on twelve thrones, judging** the twelve tribes of Israel.

The church is seen as having 12 gates to let many people in. Revelation 21:14.

4. Jesus then trained the 12 and then sent them out by 2's to preach; they couldn't send themselves out. And preaching was the center of their work -not digging wells-not building schools or hospitals, preaching.

Matthew 10:5 These twelve Jesus sent out and commanded them, saying: "Do not go into the way of the Gentiles, and do not enter a city of the Samaritans.

Mark 6:11 "And whoever will not receive you nor hear you, when you depart from there, shake off the dust under your feet as a testimony against them. Assuredly, I say to you, it will be more tolerable for Sodom and Gomorrah in the day of judgment than for that city!" 12 So they **went out and preached** that *people* should repent.

The 12 returned, debriefed, trained more, and sent out again! When they were well trained, Jesus sent them to the world.

15 and to have power to heal sicknesses and to cast out demons:

5. Jesus gave his Apostles the ability to do miracles to do to confirm their work: miraculous healings and casting out demons.

6. Jesus chose men. He did not choose women because women were less smart than men. He did this to keep his **creation order** and because the **woman was cursed** for sinning first and usurping her husband's authority. 1Tim 2:12-14.

16 Simon, to whom He gave the name Peter; 17 James the son of Zebedee and John the brother of James, to whom He gave the name Boanerges, that is, "Sons of Thunder"; 18 Andrew, Philip, Bartholomew, Matthew, Thomas, James the son of Alphaeus, Thaddaeus, Simon the Canaanite;

19 and Judas Iscariot, who also betrayed Him. And they went into a house.

7. Jesus chose men from all different spectrums of society and with different character traits.

a. **Simon Peter.** He was stubborn and quick to speak. Some think that Jesus named Simon Peter for his courage and constancy. I don't see how that could be true. I could only guess who invented that. **Peter denied the Lord and ran away from him.** Later, as Peter grew spiritually confessed that Jesus was the Christ of God, Jesus alluded to the fact **that Peter's confession was a firm foundation – like a rock,** not Peter's name! **You must not read back into his name** when he was given that name!

- b. James. One of the 2 Sons of Thunder. Boanerges.
- c. John. The other Son of Thunder. John and James probably had loud voices or spoke strongly. Jesus loved John especially.
- d. Andrew. Simon Peter's brother. His name means "manly." The first 4 disciples were fishermen.
- e. Philip. He was from Bethsaida – House of Fish.
- f. Bartholomew. His name means "son of Thalamai." Many believe he was renamed Nathaniel.
- g. Matthew. He was the corrupt tax-collector who left his post to serve Jesus. His old name was Levi.
- h. Thomas. He was a twin. He was the doubter, but was later believed to have traveled to India and established great churches there, churches which continue to this day.
- i. James. He was the son of Alphaeus. He is referred to as James the Less, to distinguish him from James, son of Zebedee.
- j. Thaddaeus. He had two other names: Lebbaeus and Jude. He wrote the Epistle of Jude. He was probably a blood brother of Jesus.
- k. Simon. He was distinguished from Simon Peter by being called Simon the Zealot. It looks like he was marked with zeal.
- l. Judas. Jesus even chose the one who would betray him...but he chose him for that purpose. This was a teaching to the church that it would never be perfect, and we always need to watch out for pretenders.

8. Lessons:

- a. **Whatever you are going to do that is of importance, take a minute or a day to pray.** Ask for wisdom and strength.
- b. **If you are called to serve the Lord you won't be able to resist.** You will be uncomfortable if you go against his calling. On the other hand, no man must take the honor to himself. You must be called by God with an internal call, and with an external call through the church. The Apostle Paul, though he was directly called by God, submitted to the appointment of the elders in Antioch.
Acts 13:2 As they ministered to the Lord and fasted, the Holy Spirit said, "Now separate to Me Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them." 3 Then, having fasted and prayed, and laid hands on them, they sent them away.
- c. **We must not depart from male leadership and preachers in the church.** This was God's plan. God's plan is corrupted when a wife has authority over her husband as an elder, for instance.
- d. **Jesus never wants his church to be ruled by "nice" people.** He wants those who are well equipped to nourish and discipline his people...those who represent his cause.
- e. **There are always slimy people who pretend to be ministers of the Gospel.** Avoid them!

Hindrances to Kingdom Work

20 Then the multitude came together again, so that they **could not so much as eat bread.**

- 1. **Many scholars believed that when Jesus was preparing to come down from the mountain that he preached the Sermon on The Mount.** That makes good sense as it was the perfect sermon for his disciples to learn and repeat. **But hindrances soon came.**

- 2. **Exhaustion from his friends.** Jesus, then supported by those called to special service, then went about the task of preaching the Gospel and confirming it with miracles. And many came to see and hear. But the numbers were so great that Jesus and his disciples **hardly had time to eat.** For Jesus, this was even more difficult, as he had **just spent the night praying.** He would have been sleepy. Then he and his disciples had to **walk from the mountain.** Surely he was tired.

21 But when **His own people** heard about this, they went out to lay hold of Him, for they said, "He is out of His mind."

- 3. **Accusation by his family.** (The NKJV is correct to speak of "his own people rather than "his friends," as the KJV.) Jesus' family who lived in Nazareth came and tried to stop him from his work, **thinking he had lost his mind**—that he was bewitched. They were concerned about what he was saying... assuming that it was from exhaustion. Furthermore, they probably had **threats from synagogue rulers who expelled supporters of Jesus** from being members of the synagogue. Some of this own brothers did not believe in

him. (John 7:5) The ones who should have been supporting the Lord's ministry – the ones who were told by the angel and Elizabeth that he would save his people from their sins, who saw the miracle of turning water into wine, and who surely would have seen and heard of great miracles that he performed – hindered his work. Later, Jesus his mother and brother tried again to stop him from his ministry.

Mark 3:31 Then His brothers and His mother came, and standing outside they sent to Him, calling Him. This was not the first time this happened in history either. That's how some thought of Elisha and Paul!

2Kings 9:11 Then Jehu came out to the servants of his master, and *one* said to him, "Is all well? Why did this madman come to you?" And he said to them, "**You know the man and his babble.**"

Acts 26:24 Now as he thus made his defense, Festus said with a loud voice, "Paul, you are beside yourself! **Much learning is driving you mad!**"

22 And the scribes who came down from Jerusalem said, "**He has Beelzebub,**" and, "By the ruler of the demons He casts out demons."

4. Insinuations by his foes. Then the scribes, who particularly hated Jesus because he corrected their false interpretation of the laws, then made the long trip down to Galilee from Jerusalem to condemn Jesus. The Scribes could not deny the miracles – for they were seen by many. But their accusation was blunt: "Jesus was under the dominion of the Devil, the Devil lived in him, and he worked for the Devil." "Beel" is a variation of "Baal," a dung heap god or "lord of the flies." "Zebub" means "house." What a horrible insinuation! Beelzebub was commonly understood as "Prince of the Devils."

5. Lessons:

a. **There are times you must make major sacrifices for the kingdom.** Sometimes you might have to experience pain, hunger, sleeplessness, and loneliness. But love for the lost must drive you on. This drive for the kingdom starts in your home. Sometimes the sacrifices are minor – you have to miss the game, or drive someone in the cold to the hospital. But sometimes you have to quit a job, break off an improper relationship or friendship, or move to a different church. All is kingdom work!

b. **Men will go to great lengths, because they serve the Devil faithfully, to bring harm to Christians through all kinds of means – not just by killing them.** Sometimes they use false accusations because it is more effective. You might be accused of being deranged for spending time in worship or supporting the work of ministry. This can cause ostracizing – which can be more effective than death. You might be accused of hate speech. But your work is too important to be distracted by hurt feelings or hurt bodies!

c. **It is stunning that so many people saw so many miracles by Jesus and yet there were many who still doubted them.** No one has ever witnessed life coming out of non-life, yet it is accepted as fact.

Conclusion:

Christ's kingdom needs good kingdom workers who will tirelessly work to promote the spread of the Gospel and kingdom of Jesus Christ. And when opposition comes, Christ's kingdom workers need to hold the fort and not allow themselves to be hindered by the flying fiery arrows of the wicked, but fly the flag of victory.

Brothers and Sisters in Jesus Christ:

1. Love faithful preachers and faithful preaching of the Word. Don't be drawn by the flashy. Learn to listen with attention to preaching and fight the urge for your minds to wander. Believe and obey what you hear!

2. Knowing the Devil is always out to hinder the Gospel from reaching the hearts of people, either by direct assault or by hurling accusations, do you pray for and encourage those who are preaching the Gospel?

3. Knowing that preaching the message of Christ's sacrifice on the cross will get others to the Lord, are you motivated to help spread the word and fight those who seek to hinder the Gospel from spreading?

Finally, if you are not a Christian, **your father is Beelzebub.** He will fool you into thinking that all is well with your soul...but reality will set in at the door of hell...if you wish to wait that long. But I hope by God's grace, your eyes will be opened and you will ask God to give you a new heart and count Christ's death as yours. Only that will save you from hell.