

DISCUSSION IDEAS

DERANGED OR DEMON POSSESSED?

Mark 3:7–35

September 13th, 2015

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IMAGINE: You grew up with this guy. You went fishing with him, played sports with him, were his classmate in school.

Then:

He starts preaching, healing sick people and even casting out demons! He becomes an immense sensation and people flock to see him.

Sure, he was always in tune with God and the Scriptures, and he was always considerate and polite, which set him aside from most boys.

BUT, WHO DOES HE THINK HE IS TO ACT LIKE HE IS GOD HIMSELF?

♦ **DISCUSSION POINT ONE – HOW DID THE CROWD RESPOND TO HIS CLAIMS?**

Read Mark 3:7–12 and see what they really wanted.

Did the crowd care that Jesus had done what only God could do? He forgave sin; He had authority over demons; He stood up to the rich and uncaring Pharisees.

SO, why was Jesus doing this? Compare Luke 4:16-22, Isaiah 35:3-7 and Isaiah 29:18-19.

Remember what we have discussed before as to what Jesus was initially offering to Israel (about His Messiahship)?

♦ **DISCUSSION POINT TWO – HOW DID JESUS' CHOSEN FOLLOWERS RESPOND TO HIS CLAIMS?**

As you read Mark 3:13-19 discuss the contrast between these men and the crowd.

Discuss Jesus' radical departure from their past teachings and world view.

♦ **DISCUSSION POINT THREE – HOW DID MOM AND THE BROTHERS RESPOND TO HIS CLAIMS?**

Some folks were just interested in their own benefits, some believed in Him, but what about Jesus' own family? Look at Mark 3:20–21 and 31-34.

Try to imagine their perspective.

Why did they really believe that Jesus was insane?

How difficult would it have been to accept what Jesus was saying and demonstrating about Who He is? (Grammatically, that would be "Who He was", but Jesus is eternal, isn't He?)

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♦ **DISCUSSION POINT FOUR – HOW DID THE JEWISH LEADERS RESPOND TO HIS CLAIMS?**

Now comes the real conflict: Mark 3:22-30.

What was the accusation against Jesus?

How was this blaspheming the Holy Spirit?

Interesting topic: Did Jesus operate by His own power, or by that of the Holy Spirit? Compare John 1:29-34, Mark 1:10-12, Matt. 3:16-17 and Luke 3:21-22.

Discuss the comparison with Phil. 2:5-9.

♦ **REFLECTION AND PERSONAL STUDY:**

How does what Jesus said in Mark 3:31-35 apply to you?

How strong is that bond between Jesus and yourself?

Sometimes we slip. So how can we keep the perspective that Jesus desires in us?

Take time to mull over John 14:11-29 and 1 Corinthians 3:16, 6:19 and Rom. 8:11.

Personal Study:

If you are faced with those who deny Jesus' Deity and Authority, consider studying "The Case For Christ" by Lee Strobel.

Remember: Only by the work of God will your friend become convinced. This involves your praying for them. No one can be argued into believing, but we need to be prepared with answers.