

## Monday March 9 ~ Ordinary Men ~ Mark 3:7-19

Jesus' apostles helped carry out the story of Christianity and spread the Good Word. When we think of Jesus choosing His apostles, we think of the men He found suitable for the job. In today's society, one may think the most important men are the smartest or the richest, but this was not Jesus' view. All of the apostles were common men ranging from farmers to fishermen. They were not rich and did not hold the noblest of jobs. They were everyday men. Relish that for a moment. When Jesus chose His closest followers, and He chose people like you and me.

I find great hope in that! We live in a world that tells us otherwise, but the truth is, Jesus does not love us for our professions or our worldly possessions. The materialistic things in this world have no meaning to Jesus. He does not care about any of these things. Jesus loves and cares for us in so many ways. He strives to have a relationship with us. He cares about every single one of us, no matter what we bring to the table, as long as we follow Him. We pray during this Lenten season that you will dive deeper into your relationship with Jesus and be reminded daily of His love for you.

*Brighton and Jesse Patrick have called Madison home for seven years. They have an (almost) two year old daughter and another baby girl arriving in May. Brighton works as a nurse practitioner at St. Mary's in the Emergency Department, and Jesse works in the agriculture industry.*

## Crowds Follow Jesus

<sup>7</sup>Jesus withdrew with his disciples to the lake, and a large crowd from Galilee followed. <sup>8</sup>When they heard about all he was doing, many people came to him from Judea, Jerusalem, Idumea, and the regions across the Jordan and around Tyre and Sidon. <sup>9</sup>Because of the crowd he told his disciples to have a small boat ready for him, to keep the people from crowding him. <sup>10</sup>For he had healed many, so that those with diseases were pushing forward to touch him. <sup>11</sup>Whenever the impure spirits saw him, they fell down before him and cried out, "You are the Son of God." <sup>12</sup>But he gave them strict orders not to tell others about him.

## Jesus Appoints the Twelve

<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<sup>[a]</sup> 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.

### Footnotes:

- a. **Mark 3:14** Some manuscripts *twelve—designating them apostles—*