

Personal Study

(1) Read Mark 3:7-12. By this point in the book of Mark, what patterns do you see emerging in Jesus' public ministry? _____

(2) Read Mark 3:13-19. Do a cross-check with Luke 6:12-16 and Matthew 10:1-8. What is unique to Mark's telling of this story? What conclusion can you draw from Mark's unique emphasis? _____

(3) Read Mark 3:20-21 and Acts 1:13-14. What do you think changed the family of Jesus from critics to disciples? _____

(4) Read Mark 3:22-30. Mark sandwiches this story inside the narrative about Jesus' family. How does this confrontation with the teachers from Jerusalem help the reader understand Jesus' opposition from His family? _____

(5) Read Mark 3:28-30 and 1 Timothy 1:13-14. Paul describes himself as a blasphemer before his conversion. What about Paul's work before his conversion (Acts 8:1-3 and Gal 1:13-14) would be considered blasphemy? _____

(6) Read Mark 3:31-35. What words are repeated the most in these five verses? What is important about that? _____

Personal Application

(1) What do you need to adjust in your schedule so that "being with Jesus" can be a priority for you? _____

(2) What happens in your personal, family, and professional life when you stop finding time to "be with Jesus"? _____

(3) How has your call to follow Jesus created conflict with friends and family in your life? How have you worked through that tension? _____

(4) What steps can you take this week to center your identity in your relationship with Jesus? _____

(5) What personal accomplishments and backgrounds are you tempted to boast in? How can you keep those from leading you to feel superior to others in the body of Christ? _____

(6) What is God saying to you through your study of this passage this week? What does He want you to learn and to change? _____

