

**“Jesus- the Unstoppable One”**  
**March 23, 2014**

**Mark 3:7-35**

**PROP- Jesus interacts with four very different groups of people. “Multi-TUDES.” Yet, none of them kept Him from fulfilling His mission. Because He’s unstoppable!**

**1. THE OPPRESSIVELY NEEDY**

- **“The crowd” is growing**
  - **“Galilee”- the most populated area of the Middle East at that time**
  - **Ideal demographics**
  - **If Jesus was simply interested in numbers & popularity—this was the place to launch a movement**
- **Yet, what the “crowd” wanted and what Jesus was called to were worlds apart!**
  - They wanted Jesus to meet their immediate needs
  - **BUT Jesus came to fully satisfy their deepest need—their need to be restored to Father’s heart; to discover their “place” (John 14)!**
  - They wanted a national leader—a Messiah—to break the power of the Roman Empire (a very small target)
  - **BUT Jesus came to overthrow the kingdom of darkness; to “destroy the devil’s work” (1 John 3:8)!**
  - **NOTE: The “press of the crowd”—oppressive demand that He meet their needs on their terms. Fickle. Turn in a moment of disappointment. (From “Hosanna” → “Crucify!”)**
- **“Have a small boat ready”—He refused to let the crowds dictate and direct Him.**
- **They could not keep Him from His greatest priority—spending time with His Father.**
  - **(John 5:19)- “I only do what I see My Father doing”**
  - **Demons recognized His intimate relationship with His Father—calling Him by His most intimate title: “SON of God”**
  - **Their “father” was a liar and an accuser—dysfunction plus!**

**2. THE IMMATURE—WITH POTENTIAL**

- **Jesus was grateful for those the Father had given to Him (Willing to work with and stick with them)!**
  - **Thankful for those “the Father gives Me,” Jesus says “I will never reject them” (John 6:37)**

- He is grateful for them, despite their immaturity: “I thank you (for revealing the hidden things) to little children” (Matthew 11:25) (Lit.- *nepios*- “an infant too young to speak”)
- **Wide (and wild) variety!** (*More than Snow White dealing with Happy & Grumpy; Doc & Dopey*)
  - **Mark gives the most personal list of names & nicknames**
  - “Simon”- *hollow reed; false pillar*→ “Peter”- *Rock*
  - “Sons of Thunder”—Luke 9:54- **their tempers**
  - “Thomas”- *the twin (may have looked like Jesus)*
  - **3 sets of brothers:** Peter & Andrew; James and John, sons of Zebedee; Matthew and James, sons of Alphaeus
  - “Bartholomew/Nathaniel”- of royal blood- King David’s lineage; “**in whom there was no guile**” (John 1:47)—totally honest
  - “Thaddeus”- *big-hearted* (possibly a nickname)
  - “Simon the zealot”- anti-Roman activist
  - “Judas”- traitor/betrayer; “Iscaiot”- knife man; backstabber
- He designated these “twelve” out of a much larger company of disciples
- Transitioned from “disciples” (a learner who puts into practice) to calling them “sent ones” (“apostles”)—easier to “keep them in school”
- He gave them:
  - Total access to Him (“to be with Him”—1<sup>st</sup> priority)
  - A message to preach (announce the “gospel”—cultural changes) “Repent”- *to think again, to retool one’s perspective, to alter your outlook*
  - The authority to drive out darkness & bring transformation!

### 3. THE CRITICS (*Travelled 100 miles from Jerusalem to investigate Him*)

- If you have no room for God to move in His power—you will relegate the unexplainable to the devil
- These leaders cowered under the “big devil—little God syndrome”
- So jealous of Jesus, the religious leaders willing to join with Herodians [NOTE: Herod was a demonized emperor. The Herodians were extreme loyalist—even more corrupt & cutthroat than Herod!]

### 4. THE CONTROLLERS (*Family travelled 25 miles from Nazareth*)

- “A man’s greatest opponents may be those of his own household” (Matthew 10:36)
- “He is out of His mind!” They “went to take charge of Him.”
  - He had left a successful carpentry business; security
  - He had made enemies of most powerful religious leaders
  - He was ignoring the opinions of others. (*H.G. Wells- “For many people, the voice of their neighbors is louder than the voice of God”*)

## CONCLUSION

Jesus was unstoppable. He faced accusation & opposition from those who should have been His greatest supporters (*religious leaders & His family*).

- He didn't let the demands of "the crowd" control Him
- He didn't let the critics' plot intimidate Him
- He didn't let the disciples' immaturity deflate Him
- He didn't let His own family's fears manipulate Him

[NOTE: You may be facing these same categories of people right now. Oppressive "drainers." Immature people. Critics. Manipulators. You can more than handle **all** of them!

He declares over you, "REPENT!" A gift of the capacity to retool your perspective and radically change your outlook on life!

Good news! **When God moves—He intends to continue.** Jesus began an **unstoppable movement!** And He lives in you!]

**Let's welcome Him to be Himself among us—to move among us in an unstoppable way. To come, not just "visiting" our needs, but "fully living" here!!!**