

2025-08-10

Great Crowds Press Jesus

Mark 3:7-12

Jesus gave people lots of great advice for free. He was the greatest teacher, lecturer and communicator of all time in the world. And He never charged anyone anything at any time. In today's world, Jesus could charge a high price to speak to any group as many preachers and other people do. Yet, I do not think Jesus would charge anything even today. His lessons that He gave on life are more valuable than gold. Learn them. They are still available. We have them in the Bible. Put them into practice. They are life. He wants everyone to know the truth at no cost. The good news of **God's salvation is free along with all the wisdom of God** (1 Corinthians 2:12).

One piece of great advice Jesus gave was, *"When you do a charitable deed, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing"* (Matthew 6:3). In other words, charitable deeds are to be done in secret. The reason for this is so that God the Father, who sees what you do in secret, can reward you (6:4). God is the only One who needs to know anyway. But if you do the deed for others to see, that, the people seeing you do it, and that alone is your reward. Jesus did all kinds of charitable deeds. All of the healings He did were charitable deeds. Every demon He cast out of a person was a charitable deed. Some of the healings He did, He tried to do quietly. When He healed the leper (Mark 1:40-45), Jesus told him not to say anything to anyone. But that healed man did not listen to Jesus. He spread the news of Jesus' authority, *"so that Jesus could no longer openly enter the city"* (1:45) without being swarmed by a crowd. Then, after Jesus publicly healed the man with a withered hand in the synagogue on the Sabbath, He and His disciples left the town and walked along the shores of the sea of Galilee.

Mark 3:7-8 *"But Jesus withdrew with His disciples to the sea. And a great multitude from Galilee followed Him, and from Judea and Jerusalem and Idumea and beyond the Jordan; and those from Tyre and Sidon, a great multitude, when they heard how many things He was doing, came to Him."* Some people, like the Pharisees sought to destroy Jesus because of the great things He did (3:6). Many others heard of His power to heal and sought Him for what they could get from Him. People from north, south, east and west came to Jesus. These were people within and beyond the border of Israel. The only local group that is not mentioned is Samaria. All these people came for one purpose. *"They heard how many things He was doing."* Jesus was healing people. The people learned quickly that Jesus had a perfect record for healing. Back then, there were no Urgent Care Facilities, no Emergency Rooms or

Hospitals. There were doctors who had medical practices. There were healing springs in various countries people used and medical schools people went to for help if they could afford it. There were natural medicines people used to help them. No doubt, many people tried many things to be healed. Since these people still had their afflictions, they must not have had great success from other people and methods. Now they are going to Jesus for help. Thousands were swarming Jesus.

Verse 9 “*So He told His disciples that a small boat should be kept ready for Him because of the multitude, lest they should crush Him.*” When the people came to Jesus, they were not given a number and told to wait until their number was called. There was no receptionist recording the time they arrived and adding their name to the list. People just swarmed Jesus. Jesus needed an escape plan. Fortunately, the lake gave Him one. Jesus could get into a boat with His disciples and leave. Once they were in deep water, Jesus would be safe from the crowd. Our family had escape plans. Growing up, in school we had fire drills. In California we had earthquake drills. In Washington D.C. we had bomb drills during the Cuban Missile Crisis. I remember hiding under my desk when the siren sounded. Now, I am not sure how much good that would have done. While in Seminary, we lived on the second floor of an apartment. We had an emergency ladder in our children’s room in case of a fire. Fortunately, we never had to use it. Once, the Bible records that Jesus had a problem with a crowd after He fed them. They were planning to “*take Him by force to make Him king*” (John 6:15). Jesus escaped by going up a mountain alone.

Verse 10 “*For He healed many, so that as many as had afflictions pressed about Him to touch Him.*” I wonder what this scene looked like. Many of these people believed that all they had to do was touch Jesus and they would be healed. People came with all kinds of problems and diseases. They “*pressed about Him.*” Literally it means **they fell upon Him**, as if demanding a healing. Lots of people were touching Jesus as happened at other times (Luke 8:45). There was some pushing and shoving going on. No one was thinking about anyone else. They were only thinking about themselves and getting what they wanted before it was all gone. Did the people need to touch Jesus to be healed? No. Jesus healed a Centurion’s servant from a distance because **the Centurion understood authority and who is Lord over all** (Matthew 8:5-13). The idea of touching someone would be more of a superstitious faith, not a true faith in God as Lord of their lives. Jesus did touch a lot of people He healed. His touch was a sign of compassion towards the person. How did Jesus handle these crowds? We are not told. The swarm of the crowds showed confusion and disorder. **Jesus always brings order and compassion** into a situation. He would want to teach the people the things that are really important. Being concerned about healing is a self-centered concern. Being concerned about others is a kingdom of

God concern. For the people their healing was the most important thing. Because of their problems these people probably lacked an ability to earn a living or to get the proper food and clothing they needed.

Jesus would teach the crowds, *“Do not worry about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink; nor about your body, what you will put on. Is not life more than food and the body more than clothing?”* (Matthew 6:25). People and societies have always been concerned about food and clothing. **God had worked out those two concerns with creation.** He has given us the ability to work, to grow things and make things. But these should not be our primary concerns. God also gave us a day to rest. A day where we can do what Jesus taught as being most important. *“Seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you”* (Matthew 6:33). God has provided food and clothing for all of His creation, from the plants and animals to the valleys and mountains. Since God has provided for all of His creation, He has also provided food and clothing for us through our ability to work and our compassion for others.

By being healed these people should learn that Jesus is Lord over all creation. They should learn that since Jesus has power over their afflictions, He should have power over all areas of their lives. God does not take power and control over a person’s life, although He could. God wants each person to recognize His love for them. God wants each person to give Him authority over their life. **Let God be Lord of your life.** He wants the best for you. Unfortunately, most of these people probably received a healing from God and went on with their lives, not putting into practice His teachings. God wants us to seek first His kingdom and His righteous and compassionate way of life as we work and live in this world. It is our greatest challenge as a Christian in this world. Living for Jesus also brings Him great glory! One of the things to watch in the gospel of Mark is that everything listens to and obeys Jesus except people. Yes some people faithfully follow Jesus, like the disciples but most do not deny themselves, take up their cross and follow Him (Mark 8:34).

Verse 11 *“And the unclean spirits, whenever they saw Him, fell down before Him and cried out, saying, ‘You are the Son of God.’”* Once again, we are reminded that the demons know who Jesus is. He is God in human flesh. These demons even fall down before Jesus because they know who He is. If you were reading this in the Greek, you would notice a very important contrast. The demons fall down before Jesus, confessing who He is and wanting only to be left alone. The crowd of people press in on Jesus. Literally, the crowd falls upon Jesus wanting something from Him. The two words, *“press”* and *“fell down”* are the same Greek word. The only difference is the preposition with them. The crowds fell **upon** Jesus. The demons fell

before Jesus. What is the lesson? The demons **do** the right thing and **say** the truth because they have to. The demons have no love for Jesus. The crowd should know who Jesus is because of His actions. But they do not because of their action. They **do not do the right thing**. They do not fall before Jesus and surrender to Him. The crowd falls on Jesus, touching Him. **They do not call Him Lord**. They cry out for a healing. Jesus wanted these people to trust Him. He wanted to be Lord of their lives. Jesus gave these people a physical healing which was only temporary. He wants to give people a spiritual healing of their soul, the forgiveness of sins that is eternal. These people could not see beyond their physical need.

Verse 12 *“But He sternly warned them that they should not make Him known.”* This is the second time that Jesus has told unclean spirits, these demons to be quiet about who He is (Mark 1:25). Jesus wanted the people to see His works, which they saw, and recognize who He was by those works, which they did not. When John the Baptist’s disciples asked Jesus, *“Are You the Coming One, or do we look for another?”* (Luke 7:20). Jesus did not answer them with a simple “yes.” Instead *“He cured many of infirmities, afflictions, and evil spirits; and to many blind He gave sight”* (7:21). Just as we are judged by God by our actions not our words, so we are to judge Jesus by His actions, not just His words. There are too many people in the world that say all kinds of things but their actions are different. Listen to their words but believe their actions. If their words and actions do not match up. Believe their actions. Their words are lies. Their actions tell us who they really are. Because the actions of Jesus and the words of Jesus match. **We can believe the words of Jesus because His actions back them up. He speaks the truth.** The demons spoke words about Jesus, even though they were true, people are not to trust in them because their actions do not match their words. Demons show no love for Jesus. Demons lie. The devil is the father of lies (John 8:44). Believe Jesus who speaks truth and lives truth.

What is the greatest advice that Jesus gives people? Jesus said, *“You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, and with all your strength. This is the first commandment. And the second, like it, is this: You shall love your neighbor as yourself. There is no other commandment greater than these”* (Mark 12:30-31). May people in the crowd hear and respond with faith.

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Our mission statement: **Spread the gospel of Jesus Christ;
Teach believers to worship God; Foster growth in the Christian faith**

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Mark 3:7-12

Questions to ask yourself:

Should Christians do charitable deeds?
Who should we tell about the charitable deeds we do?
Has someone done a charitable deed for you?

Mark 3:7-8

Why did crowds of people come to Jesus?

Verse 9:

Do you have an escape plan in case of an emergency?

Verse 10:

What did the crowds want from Jesus?
Who were the people concerned about?
Did the people need to touch Jesus to be healed?
What does Jesus always bring to a situation?
What would Jesus teach the crowds?
What should a person's healing teach them?

Verse 11:

What did the unclean spirits do right?
What did the unclean spirits do wrong?
What did the people do right?
What did the people do wrong?

Verse 12:

Why should we not listen to demons?
Who should we listen to?
What is the greatest advice, command that Jesus gave us?
Do you?

Actions to take:

Evaluate your life, how are you loving God with all your heart, soul, mind and strength. What acts are you doing daily that show you are loving God in each area? Be loving toward your neighbor. Do a charitable deed to or for someone each day. The Boy Scout motto is "Do a good turn daily."

Next week: Mark 3:13-19 Jesus Called the Twelve