

Mark: The Mysterious Messiah

Week 5: Mark 3:1-19

Introductory Exercise. What's the difference between an apostle and a disciple?

In your translation, who is watching Jesus in 3:2? Glancing back at the most recent pericopes (episodes) in Mark, what might a first-century audience (who would have heard the whole Gospel in one sitting) have assumed about the antecedent to this pronoun?

What language does Mark use to indicate Jesus's emotional reaction to the disposition of "them"? When Jesus once again claims a sort of royal or even priestly prerogative in the synagogue, what groups of people conspire with each other to plot his downfall?

As Jesus moves towards the Sea of Galilee, what is the extent of his following, geographically and otherwise? What marks his ministry in Galilee at this point? When the unclean spirits call him Son of God, why do you think Jesus orders their silence?

Where is Jesus when he names twelve apostles? What bits of the Old Testament do this geographic move and this numerical move echo? What does the word apostle mean? What functions are the apostles to have?

Looking at the list of the twelve, what sorts of things does the text of Mark see fit to emphasize about each man?