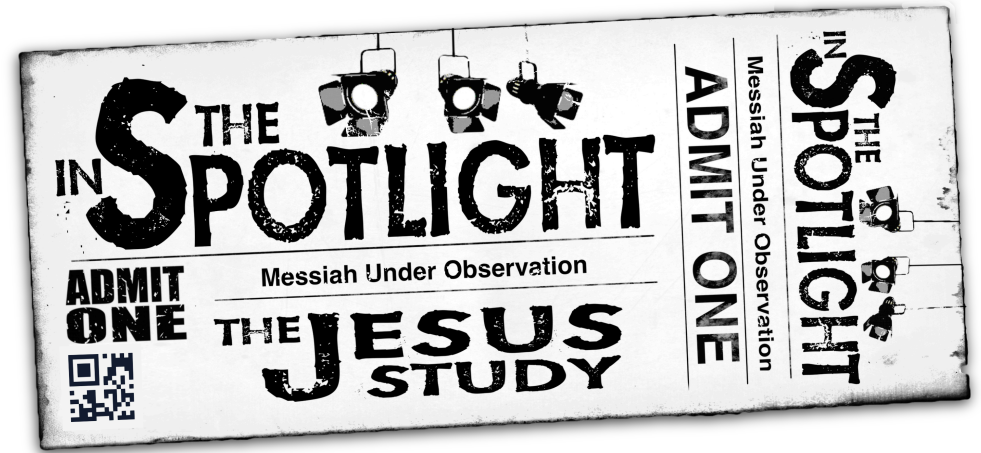


Next Week: "You have heard it said, but I say..."

Matthew 5: The sermon on the mount

You won't want to miss it!



"ROCK STAR STATUS"

OR

"CALL ME CRAZY"

LESSON #4

Scriptures:

Mark 3:7-35; Matthew 10:5-8

Focus Scripture: Mark 3:35

*"Whoever does the will of God is my brother and sister and mother."*

**Food for thought:** Every family system has an "odd duck," someone we might call crazy. Why are they labeled as such?

## Vocabulary Definitions:

**Beelzebub:** (Hebrew *Ba'al zēbhūbh*), a Philistine god, literally, "Lord of Flies," also Prince of Devils.

**Demon:** Much nonsense is written about demons and demonology. Describing spiritual beings using language of mortals is fraught with pitfalls. We do not have enough information or evidence to say much more than, "demons exist". The Spiritual world exists around us, but evidence of demonic activity is anecdotal. Scripture mentions the work of evil (demons, Satan) is to steal, kill and destroy (John 10:10). We are admonished to be alert, as Evil is described as a devouring lion. (1 Peter 5:8).

**Jesus' Gospel Message:** The Spirit of God has anointed me to proclaim: Think differently and believe God's kingdom is here. God's kingdom is good news to the poor, release to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, freedom for those who are oppressed. It is the year of the Lord's favor or "Jubilee."

**Year of Jubilee:** Levitical law introduced Jubilee as a year of rest for the land and its people. All debts were to be forgiven, land was given back to original ownership, and slaves were given freedom. Historically, this was rarely practiced, as discrepancies about the 49th year, or the 50th year were bandied about without consensus throughout the generations. Its basic meaning is everything gets a re-set every 50 years, everyone is free. Jesus uses this term in his Gospel message.

## Brief Historical and/or Cultural Context:

Our lesson today begins with a detailed description of Jesus' daily life and ministry. News of Jesus has spread throughout Judah and surrounding area. People are now traveling from as far as Idumea (southern Judah, over 100 mi.), beyond the Jordan (the Decapolis) and Perea, and as far north as Sidon (on the Mediterranean, 50 mi.). Those crowds are bringing their sick, along with entourages of care-givers, families, livestock, travel supplies. Imagine this as the scene into which Jesus walks every day. The Sea of Galilee is one of the lowest-lying bodies of water in the world. The topography around the Sea of Galilee can be referred to as mountainous, however, "hilly" might be a better description. The Jordan River valley runs from that sea to the Dead Sea (southern Judah). Travel in that region would mean walking roads that meandered through the ranges of hills. Jesus taught along the hills surrounding the sea, as acoustics were great when he preached from a boat to the crowds on the hill.

## SETTING THE STAGE: Read Mark 3:7-12

1. What are your 5 senses experiencing?
2. What phrases in these passages describe some of the chaos.

## SCENE I: Mark 3:13-19 & Matthew 10:1, 5-8

1. What is happening in these passages?
2. Why do you think Jesus needed/wanted the disciples to carry the Gospel message to surrounding villages?

## Read Matthew 10:1, 5-8 out loud

1. What is the disciples' message? (*what's the Gospel, again?*)
2. What are the disciples' actions?

## SCENE II Read: Mark 3:20-22, 31-35

**SETTING THE STAGE:** Read out loud, paying attention to the surroundings

1. Who are the characters of this particular scene?

**SCRIPT:** Read out loud again, paying attention to Jesus

1. What are they saying about Jesus, and how does he respond?
2. Why do you think Jesus' family arrives on the scene?
3. What do you wonder about in this passage?

## Read: Mark 3:22-30

**SCRIPT:** Read out loud, paying attention to Jesus

1. What are they saying about Jesus, and how does he respond?
2. In Jesus' parable, who might be the "strong man?"

## Read: Mark 3:20-35

**REVIEWS:** Read aloud once more.

1. What different emotions are displayed by Jesus?
2. What about Jesus (*from these passages*) makes you wonder?