

Targets For Then & Today

“Case for Christ”, part 10, November 14th, 2021
Pastor Bob Johnson, Grace Point Church

Insights from Mark 3:7-19

Jesus' target: C _____ over C _____

(Mark 3:7-8)

Crowd's target: N _____ over N _____

(Mark 3:9-12)

Our targets:

(Mark 3:13-19)

- **T ...**

(Mark 3:13-14a, 1 Cor. 1:9, Mat. 22:36-39, 1 John 4:10, Acts 4:13)

- **T ...**

(Mark 3:14b, 1 Corinthians 9:22, 2 Corinthians 5:17-20)

- **T ...**

(Mark 3:15-19, John 10:10, James 2:15-17)

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This Week's Discussion Guide (part 9):

Welcome to our last week of our 10 week study and discussion of the Gospel of Mark. As we take a break from our weekly Bible study and discussion, let's all look forward to resuming our study of the gospel of Mark starting the week of January 9th :).

Getting Started:

Last Sunday morning at GPC, we looked at Mark 3:7-19.

One of the last things Bob mentioned was the list of the twelve disciples in Mark 3:14-19 and how the order was not insignificant. Speaking of a list of names in a certain order, if you have siblings, what 'birth order' are you?

How do you think where you landed on the 'kid list' impacted your upbringing?
If you were an only child, what was that like?

From Mark 3:7-8, we saw how Jesus avoided escalating the current conflict with the Pharisees by withdrawing for a period of time. Speaking of conflict, we have all had our share. What are some lessons or insights regarding engaging and resolving conflict that are helpful to remember before the next situation shows up?
What have you learned about yourself regarding conflict?

Can you think of a potential conflict that you chose to withdraw from?
If so, why did you choose to not engage the situation? Are you still glad you withdrew?

One of the targets Jesus encouraged his followers to pursue in Mark 3:14 was telling others the Good News of the Gospel.

Speaking of sharing good news, what good news have you shared or heard recently that put a smile on your face or caused someone else to smile?

As we now turn our attention and discussion to God's Word, let's re-read Mark 3:7-19.

From last Sunday's message, what are some thoughts or certain words or verses that stood out to you?

Discussion Together:

As a follower of Jesus, it is great news that God desires to forgive us and free us to live a life with Him of power and purpose.

How do the following verses remind us about how God is at work in our lives?
Romans 8:26-27, Hebrews 4:12, John 10:27-28, Acts 1:8

Which of these verses are most helpful to you in pursuing the three targets mentioned in last Sunday's message: spending time with Jesus, telling others the good news of Jesus and helping others live a transformed life?

When it comes to sharing the good news of the gospel with others, most find it difficult. One reason is they do not feel they have a good enough grasp of the Gospel. In GPC Essentials, Bob shares the six truths that summarize the gospel. To increase our comfort level, let's review them together:

- G The Bible says that God created us and loves us and wants a personal relationship with each of us as part of his family. (Gen. 1:27-28, Jeremiah 31:3)
- O Instead of going God's way, we all have sinned and gone our own way. (Isaiah 53:6, Romans 3:23)
- S Our sin has caused a separation between us and God. (Isaiah 59:2)
- P The payment for our sin was made by Jesus on the cross. (Romans 5:8, Romans 6:23, 1 Timothy 2:5)
- E Because of what Jesus did, we can have eternal life with God. (John 1:12-13, John 5:24, John 10:10)
- L To have a relationship with God, we need to accept Jesus as Savior and Lord. (Romans 10:9, Matthew 16:24-25, Revelation 3:20)

Which of the above six gospel truths do you think is harder for people to understand or accept? Which one do you feel is harder for you to explain?

Along with being more clear about the gospel, what other reasons are out there that cause people (and us) to be hesitant in sharing the gospel with others?

How can we help each other be more verbal ambassadors for Christ?

As we wrap up this 10 week small group season, how has being a part of our group encouraged you and/or stretched you? What would you like to say to the rest of us?

As was mentioned last Sunday, part of living a transformed life as part of God's Kingdom is looking beyond our own needs and serving others.

From the list that was shared last Sunday, what is one or two areas of serving that you might be interested in pursuing as part of the new year?

Praying Together:

One of the benefits of meeting together is praying for one another.

Before we wrap up, let's all share one prayer request so that we can lift each other up in prayer.