

Covered in Dust  
Mark 3:13-21

I. Intro

- A. Mother's day is upon us:
  - 1. Bless your mom's today
  - 2. Mom's love is expressed through tender care and example, it is a special kind of love.
  - 3. We need moms and dads, working together to raise children to become examples of Christ in this world.
  - 4. Let's pray for moms.
- B. This is not a special mother's day message, but you will need to keep a running total of all the ways I mix in moms in the sermon...lets go.
- C. We have just seen Jesus interact with the religious leaders of the day over the first 2 chapters, now we switch gears a bit to see the contrast in His disciples.
- D. Last Week:
  - 1. 30 day challenge:
    - a) Read the Bible every day for 30 days
    - b) Confess sin every day for 30 days
    - c) Prayer list every day for 30 days
    - d) Engage in Gospel Conversations every day for 30 days
  - 2. How is it going?
  - 3. Stories to tell...
- E. A disciple is one who followed the teaching and example of their rabbi:
  - 1. A first-century disciple (talmid) of a rabbi committed 100% of their life to following their teacher, with the ultimate goal of becoming exactly like him in thought, action, and character. This involved leaving family and jobs to live with the rabbi, serving him, memorizing his teachings, and adopting his interpretation of the Torah, known as taking the "yoke of the rabbi"
  - 2. Key Aspects of Commitment of 1st century disciples:
    - a) Total Immersion & Imitation: Disciples spent 24/7 with the rabbi, watching and imitating everything he did—how he prayed, taught, acted, and even ate.
    - b) "Covered in Dust": A common blessing was that a disciple would be "covered in the dust" of their rabbi's feet, meaning they followed him so closely that they were constantly in his presence.
    - c) Full-Time Service: Disciples were expected to act as servants to the rabbi, managing daily needs, which sometimes included arranging food or travel.
    - d) Rote Memorization: A primary duty was to memorize the rabbi's teachings and interpretations to ensure the tradition was preserved and passed on.
    - e) Leaving Home: Following a rabbi often meant leaving one's family and vocation, sometimes for months at a time.
  - 3. They were a model for commitment and we have the text of the gospels, in part, because of the pattern of life they followed.
  - 4. Mother's day reference: All these disciples had moms

II. Text

- A. Verse 13:
  - 1. those He desired: He called the ones He wanted to gather close and imitate Him.
  - 2. He demonstrated ministry and mission, they followed
  - 3. He did not call the Religious leaders...
- B. Verses 14-15: the mission
- C. Verses 16-19: the list
  - 1. Simon Peter: fisherman
  - 2. James of Zebedee (Boanerges) mom: Salome: Fisherman
  - 3. John of Zebedee (Boanerges) mom: Salome: Fisherman

4. Andrew: Fisherman
5. Philip: Fisherman, laborer
6. Bartholomew: Fisherman
7. Matthew: Tax Collector
8. Thomas: Fisherman or Craftsman
9. James of Alphaeus: Mom: Mary: Unknown occupation
10. Thaddaeus: Unknown, but believed to be a fisherman
11. Simon the Zealot: Freedom Fighter in the resistance movement
12. Judas Iscariot: Unknown, but treasurer of the group

D. Verses 20-21: It wasn't just the religious leaders that rejected Him at this point.

### III. Points

#### A. Those He Desired

1. A collection of ordinary individuals that did extraordinary things, not because of who they were, but because of who they were with.
2. The least likely and least influential are the ones God chose for the most important task regarding our response to Christ...follow
3. The Pharisees were expecting to rule and reign with Christ, but Christ chose the common.
4. Mother's Day references: The only people that thought these boys were special were their mommas and Jesus.
5. You and I are not worthy of this calling, and that makes it so much more special.
6. Jesus in the High Priestly Prayer of John 17:
  - a) [Jhn 17:20-26 ESV] 20 "I do not ask for these only, but also for those who will believe in me through their word, 21 that they may all be one, just as you, Father, are in me, and I in you, that they also may be in us, so that the world may believe that you have sent me. 22 The glory that you have given me I have given to them, that they may be one even as we are one, 23 I in them and you in me, that they may become perfectly one, so that the world may know that you sent me and loved them even as you loved me. 24 Father, I desire that they also, whom you have given me, may be with me where I am, to see my glory that you have given me because you loved me before the foundation of the world. 25 O righteous Father, even though the world does not know you, I know you, and these know that you have sent me. 26 I made known to them your name, and I will continue to make it known, that the love with which you have loved me may be in them, and I in them."
  - b) His desire for His followers is more beautiful and amazing that we could ever imagine.

#### B. Covered in Dust

1. Being COVERED IN DUST of the Rabbi's feet meant that the disciple followed so closely that the dust kicked up by the steps of the master rested on the follower.
2. WE SHOULD BE COVERED BY THE DUST OF THE FEET OF JESUS
3. Mother's day reference: Covered in Dust like a mom sitting next to a ball field...
4. This is where the 30 day challenge really takes root:
  - a) It takes discipline to be a follower
  - b) It takes practice to be a follower
  - c) It takes humility to be a follower
  - d) It takes perseverance to be a follower
  - e) Followers are marked by success and failure, learning and growing.
5. The follower of Christ should follow so closely that they are marked by the things that marked Christ.
  - a) Does your life look like an imitator of Christ?
  - b) [Eph 5:1-2 ESV] 1 Therefore be imitators of God, as beloved children. 2 And walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us, a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God.

- c) What is hindering you from this evidence?: options
- (1) You are not saved
  - (2) You are not a Christ follower
  - (3) You are caught up in bondage and bitterness
  - (4) You have not yet submitted to the truth
  - (5) You just don't understand.
  - (6) [Pro 2:6-9 ESV] 6 For the LORD gives wisdom; from his mouth come knowledge and understanding; 7 he stores up sound wisdom for the upright; he is a shield to those who walk in integrity, 8 guarding the paths of justice and watching over the way of his saints. 9 Then you will understand righteousness and justice and equity, every good path;

C. Rejected by many

1. Rejection will come when you are following Christ.
2. When you have peace with God, those who do not know peace with God struggle with how to deal with you.
3. The religious leaders, Jesus' family, and His hometown, the towns of Capernaum, Chorazin, and Bethsaida all rejected Jesus during these ministry years
  - a) BUT IT DIDN'T STOP HIS MINISTRY
  - b) At this point in His ministry He was healing people of disease, evil spirits, and sin...What's so bad about that?
  - c) There is no good possible reason to reject Christ and His work based on what they are seeing before their eyes
  - d) Yet, they did.
4. Today Christ and His work is also rejected, and there is no good reason:
  - a) He brings peace and comfort
  - b) Correction and purpose
  - c) Direction and power
  - d) Yet, that is offensive to many, and rejected as foolishness.
5. It doesn't make sense...
  - a) It is a practice and philosophy that blesses followers
  - b) Yet is illegal in many countries, and scoffed in many hearts
  - c) Stand firm!
6. He was rejected, Yet is the Cornerstone:
7. [Psa 118:19-24 ESV] 19 Open to me the gates of righteousness, that I may enter through them and give thanks to the LORD. 20 This is the gate of the LORD; the righteous shall enter through it. 21 I thank you that you have answered me and have become my salvation. 22 The stone that the builders rejected has become the cornerstone. 23 This is the LORD's doing; it is marvelous in our eyes. 24 This is the day that the LORD has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it.

IV. Close

- A. Are you covered in His dust?
- B. Are you striving for relationship and discipline with Christ?
- C. Are you becoming more like Him by bearing the fruit of the Spirit? Love, Joy, peace, patience, kindness, gentleness, goodness, self control
- D. This is the work of a disciple!