

## THE DANGER OF RADICAL DISCIPLESHIP

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**Mark 3:20-34**

This teaching is dangerous stuff. The notion of becoming a radical disciple is hazardous to your relationships. A radical disciple is one who goes against the tide. You are God's representatives on this earth; running the family business, so to speak. We must, however look at the pros as well as the cons. We must look at the delights as well as the dangers. The rules of the game change every area of your life. You are letting go of the old ways of thinking and you are going against the prince of darkness. If you want to maintain the status quo and play it safe, you might reconsider becoming a radical disciple.

When we look at the life of Jesus and the relationships he had with people, we see that Jesus was consumed with ministry and service to others at his own expense.

The first group(the common folk) thought he was the man. They came to Jesus to meet all of their needs. Jesus came to love peoples and he came to save souls but most people didn't want more if it meant that they had to give as well as receive. These people were satisfied with the immediate. But Jesus, met them where they were, never turned them away, but continually taught them to have an awareness of that which truly satisfies.

The second group(his family) thought he was deranged. When his family hears that he was working so much that he wasn't taking care of his own needs, his family came to take charge of or arrest him. When you become a radical disciple for Christ, some people will think you have lost your mind. When you are a radical disciple, Christ is your life. Radical discipleship will cost you your life because you live His life. Jesus' own family was concerned about his well-being. Jesus left a flourishing business in order to work as a traveling minister with no place to lay his head. Then he went against the religious authorities. No one went against the Pharisees, Sadducees and scribes, because they could make your life rough.

Then, he started his own society of a raggedy band of people who didn't have it all together. People who were down on their luck; sinners who needed salvation. He pulled together some crazy mixed up folks and called them disciples and no one could understand it.

What Jesus was making the clear by his actions is the fact that if you don't have core values, others will influence you. That's what happens in the world. The world says we are foolish to follow someone we cannot see. but they don't know who we know and what we know. The world says you ought to stop going to church. they don't know that a change is taking place on the inside. God is getting you ready for the new life he is calling you to.

Jesus had thrown away his security. Most of us want to make sure we are secure. But we have to be careful that money and things don't become our God. You have to be careful that you aren't bought. Jesus talks about

self-denial and who wants to talk about self-denial today? How much is what you're going after going to cost you and is it worth it? Most of us tend to play it safe. Anything that is going to cause us a little risk we instinctively shrink back from. Jesus didn't care much about what people thought about him.

The thing that appalled Jesus' friends and family were the risks he was taking. Jesus was marching to a different drumbeat because he was listening to another voice: the one who had given him power and authority. Jesus made it clear that he was willing to pay the cost.

You say that you want power and authority... Jesus also had to deal with the religious authorities (the third group). They were intimidated. You are intimidating when you start operating in authority i.e. when you start to say "no" and mean it. Folks are fine with you when you are passive, but if you get healthy and demand that everyone else in the house get healthy, it's not going to be pretty. I can't understand how folk can talk to you any kind of way in your house, on your job, in your presence. I can't understand that you allow the enemy to take control of your mind. Why do you keep hanging out with them? Why don't you just say, "be gone in the name of Jesus"? Be healed, come out of them. I can't understand how you can let your children go to school with their pants hanging down and their butts showing. I can't understand how you can let your children get their noses and tongues and other places pierced. When you are radical, you are no longer passive. You don't just take anything, and you don't allow anything.

Do you know that there are schools in our community that have computers that don't work? It's dangerous. People won't be happy if you speak up. You can't win if you're just sitting there. You are already in the fight so you need to take authority. The religious authorities were jealous of Jesus, so they said he was in league with the prince of demons. It is important for us to have unity and not disunity in the body of Christ. It is important to resolve disorder in our homes by communicating and taking care of it quickly. The truth of the matter is, some of us are so passive and laid back, we just let it go rather than confront the disease and dysfunction in our homes. You know some of your family members are not speaking to each other. We have to overcome the differences. We have to remember that there is power in agreement.

Jesus was saying that the defeat of Satan and his demons did not show that Jesus was in alliance with Satan, but that Jesus was stronger. We cannot get distracted or dissuaded by fighting and fears within and without. Jesus accepted life as a continuous struggle between good and evil, God and the Devil. He did not waste time arguing about where evil came from. He just dealt with it effectively. Too many of us are having theological debates and discussions, we need to spend less time talking and more time doing something. The world is on fire and we don't have time to study and discuss it. You are not empowered by reading about it. You will be empowered by taking up the shield of faith, and the sword of the spirit. You will be empowered by putting on the helmet of salvation and having your breastplate of righteousness in place. If your house is going to endure, it doesn't just depend on the wife. It depends on the husband and the wife. Not just the parents, but the parents and the children.

This is our father's world and we are in charge.

Peace.

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