

Committed to the Kingdom

The Gospel of Mark

Mark 3:7-4:34

When you first came to know Christ and followed him, what did you imagine he would ask of you? What sort of sacrifices or adventures? What strange lands or people did you expect to be asked to serve for God? How did you react to those ideas?

Read Mark 3:7-4:34

What sort of followers were the primary focus of Jesus' ministry?

What did Jesus require of those who wanted to follow him?

What kind of "crop" will true disciples produce?

What sets the disciples apart from the crowds following Jesus?

What's one thing this week you can begin to surrender to Jesus in order to better embrace the call of discipleship?

In your own words, describe the dangers of each of the problematic soils?

During what times in your life did your faithful following of Jesus struggle to take root?

Has there been a particular struggle or temptation that has threatened to entangle your discipleship?

LAST WORD

Take a moment to consider the scope of what discipleship is all about. Think back to the scene that Mark was painted for us so far: Massive crowds have been following Jesus. He's drawn both positive and negative attention from nearly everyone – including his own mother and brothers.

Now put yourself in the shoes of the disciples, watching this whole thing unfold. Jesus has been talking in parables to keep the mysteries of God's kingdom hidden from the masses, but still – this new kingdom Jesus has been talking about looks well underway. Doesn't it?

Jesus calls us into discipleship in order to grow the kingdom of God. And that kingdom will, ultimately, change the world. But our contributions are likely to be small – hardly noticeable. And that's okay, because the kingdom is what matters – not our fame.

The promise Jesus offers is, in the end, a huge kingdom build by God himself. We have the opportunity to play a small part in building it. Is that enough for you? Are you willing to be a small part of God's great story?