

MARCH 10, 2024

"The Wilderness of Fear"

Scripture: Mark 3:20-27



The Wilderness of
FEAR

4th Sunday in Lent

AUTHOR

John Mark is the author. He accompanied his cousin, Barnabas, and the apostle Paul on their 1st missionary journey but left at the second stop, returning to Jerusalem. Two years later Barnabas suggested Mark as a traveling companion for their 2nd missionary journey but Paul refused. Barnabas took Mark with him and Paul chose Silas. Paul and Mark reconciled later and became close friends. Mark is also thought to have been a friend of Peter, one of Jesus' twelve disciples. Mark probably wrote this gospel, which is the shortest gospel, between AD 55 and 65. Mark writes to encourage the Christians in Rome as they experience oppression and persecution. He also writes to prove beyond a doubt that Jesus is the Messiah.

CONTEXT

Jesus' ministry continues as he heals people and large crowds follow him. News of his miracles has spread and people want to see him. He appoints his 12 disciples. The Pharisees are a religious group who follow Old Testament laws and also follow their own religious traditions and man-made laws (They had over 600 laws in place that affected every part of their daily lives and insisted that others follow these too) They hate Jesus because he challenges their motives and attitudes. As our scripture passage opens today, crowds are gathering around Jesus and his disciples to the point that Jesus doesn't have time to take care of himself.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Why do you think Jesus' family thought he was out of his mind?
2. Do you think Jesus' family were fearful for him?
3. Is it hard for you to share about Jesus with family members?
4. Who did the teachers of the law think was responsible for Jesus' power?
5. How did Jesus respond?
6. Why did the teachers of the law want people to believe Jesus was possessed by demons?
7. What point was Jesus making in verse 27?
8. What does Revelation 20:10 say will ultimately happen to Satan?

ENCOURAGEMENT

Even though there is darkness in the world,
God is still in control.

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