

**FORGIVEN! NOW WHAT?
MARK 3:13-19**



Salvation is great and wonderful but what is the next step?

- Are we just marking something off our list of life's activities?
- Paul gives us the roadmap for Christianity in Romans

Salvation is great and wonderful but what is the next step?

- **Romans 8:29-30 NLT** 29 For God knew his people in advance, and he chose them to become like his Son, so that his Son would be the firstborn among many brothers and sisters. 30 And having chosen them, he called them to come to him. And having called them, he gave them right standing with himself. And having given them right standing, he gave them his glory.

Salvation is great and wonderful but what is the next step?

- Look what God has done in our lives
 - He has chosen us to be changed spiritually affecting our humanity internally and externally
 - He has called us to come ever increasing closer to himself
 - He has made us acceptable before Him
 - He has promised to show us his glory

Salvation is great and wonderful but what is the next step?

- We will miss all of this in the here and now if we fail to follow the call and come to Jesus personally
- This is not the call of salvation, but discipleship
- Make any excuse you want, you will miss heaven on earth if you fail to follow the call
- Billy Graham's answer to the question, "What does it mean to be a disciple of Jesus?"

Salvation is great and wonderful but what is the next step?

- “A disciple is simply someone who believes in Jesus and seeks to follow him in his or her daily life. Originally, of course, a disciple was someone who literally knew Jesus in the flesh and followed him — but after he was taken up into heaven, anyone who was committed to Jesus was called a disciple. And that’s what you are, now that you have come to Christ and are seeking to follow him.”

Salvation is great and wonderful but what is the next step?

- We see this next step played out in our central verses this morning
- **Mark 3:13-19**

- **1st Corinthians 1:29 NLT** 26 Remember, dear brothers and sisters, that few of you were wise in the world's eyes or powerful or wealthy when God called you.
- **Matthew 19:24 NLT** it is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich person to enter the Kingdom of God!”
 - Jesus is probably using hyperbole here, a figure of speech that exaggerates for emphasis

- **Matthew 7:3-5 NLT** 3 “And why worry about a speck in your friend’s eye when you have a log in your own? 4 How can you think of saying to your friend, ‘Let me help you get rid of that speck in your eye,’ when you can’t see past the log in your own eye? 5 Hypocrite! First get rid of the log in your own eye; then you will see well enough to deal with the speck in your friend’s eye.

- **Matthew 24:24 NLT** Blind guides! You strain your water so you won't accidentally swallow a gnat, but you swallow a camel!
- I want you to look not at the names this morning, but the process Jesus used

He called to him those he wanted

- What's the first question?
 - Who did Jesus want?
 - Who did Jesus want close to him?
- We already know it was not the just the smartest, wealthiest or most powerful

He called to him those he wanted

- Jesus was bringing God's Kingdom to earth and he needed those close to him that
 - Truly believed he was from God, even the promised Messiah
 - Those who truly desired to be a part of God's Kingdom on earth

He called to him those he wanted

- Jesus was bringing God's Kingdom to earth and he needed those close to him that
 - They didn't have all the answers or even the correct answers every time
 - **John 6:68-69 NIV** 68 Simon Peter answered him, "Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life. 69 We have come to believe and to know that you are the Holy One of God."

He called to him those he wanted

- Jesus was bringing God's Kingdom to earth and he needed those close to him that
 - Those who would humbly set aside everything about themselves and simply follow him closely
 - ❖ Learn of and from him
 - ❖ Imitate him in their daily lives
 - ❖ To stay close to him

He called to him those he wanted

- Who does Jesus want today?
 - Every born-again child of God and that includes you
 - **Romans 8:30a NLT** 30 And having chosen them, he called them to come to him
 - You have a place designated close to Jesus and you will never find peace or security here without living there consistently

Those called came to him

- Here is your decision. Will I go to him as a disciple?
- This is a decision you will have to make every day, every minute, every event
 - Will I be Jesus' disciple here and now?
 - Will I see this life, event, decision as Jesus sees it?
 - Will I respond as Jesus wants me to?
 - Will I simply trust Jesus now?

Those called came to him

- Jesus is calling you to a personal experience with him
 - Jesus never wants anybody to talk about Christianity as an advocate, but always a witness of what he has personally experienced
 - If you are merely a religious salesman, you will be an ineffective witness

Those called came to him

- He desires a witness who knows who they are, knows what Christ has done in them
- You don't have to have all the answers, just the experience of walking with Jesus and leaning from and of him
- **Romans 8:30b NLT** And having called them, he gave them the right standing with himself

Those called came to him

- Because of Jesus' work on the cross we now have the right to stand in the presence of God accepted as a dearly loved son or daughter with Jesus
- Satan will draw your attention to your failures, rebellion, sinfulness and say, "You don't deserve to stand there!"
- But our Heavenly Father will say, "What failure, rebellion or sinfulness

Those called came to him

- **Psalms 103:12 NLT** He has removed our sins as far from us as the east is from the west.
- The question is, “Will you come and abide with your Savior Jesus Christ as he came and abided with us?”
- Will you come and stand in his presence?

He appointed twelve designating them apostles

- He gave each of them a place to serve and be fulfilled in God's Kingdom on earth
- Some were given the position of apostle, most were not but all are still important and valuable to the work and person of Jesus

He appointed twelve designating them apostles

- We tend to think of the church like we do a business
 - The really important people are not in the mail room, janitor or person answering the phones, but the offices up above where the decision are made

He appointed twelve designating them apostles

- Here's the thinking, "We can easily get someone else to deliver the mail or sweep the floor or answer the phones.....
 - They are not really important
- That is not how Jesus looks at them or you
- We are honored not by the position in Jesus' Kingdom but the proximity to the King

He appointed twelve designating them apostles

- **1 Corinthians 3:16 ESV** “Do you not know that you are God’s temple and that God’s Spirit dwells in you?”
- Serving the King in whatever capacity is an honor whether it is sweeping the floor, changing a baby, checking on a shut-in, talking to a child...
- These are some of Jesus’ best and most trusted disciples

He appointed twelve designating them apostles

- **1st Corinthians 12:4-6, 11 NLT** 4 There are different kinds of spiritual gifts, but the same Spirit is the source of them all. 5 There are different kinds of service, but we serve the same Lord. 6 God works in different ways, but it is the same God who does the work in all of us. 11 It is the one and only Spirit who distributes all these gifts. He alone decides which gift each person should have.

He appointed twelve designating them apostles

- **Romans 8:30c NLT** And having given them right standing, he gave them his glory.
- You will experience the glory of God when you are working in the Kingdom of God for the glory of Jesus alone, using whatever spiritual gift God has given you
- If there is a need to fill, don't tell me it is not your gift

So, the question today was, “What is the next step or what now?”

- Answer – Following the calling of Jesus to himself, to become a disciple of Jesus
- Please notice you must get the first step correct or the next step has no meaning
 - Judas Iscariot

So, the question today was, “What is the next step or what now?”

- Billy Graham, “What does it mean to be a disciple of Jesus? It means first of all that we want to learn from him — and we will, as we study God’s word, the Bible, and listen to others teach from it. Make the Bible part of your life every day. The Psalmist said, “The unfolding of your words gives light; it gives understanding to the simple” (Psalm 119:130).”

So, the question today was, “What is the next step or what now?”

- Billy Graham, “But being a disciple also means we want to put God’s word into action by seeking to live the way Christ wants us to live — with God’s help. Thank God every day for his great love for you, and ask him to help you share his love with others.”

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