



Sermon Notes

Topic: THE WAY: Be With Me

Bible Passage: Mark 3:13-15

Preacher: Ps Sam Toms

Date: 11 October 2026

Study Guide Overview

Jesus never called us simply to do things for Him; He first called us to be with Him. In Mark 3:13–15, the disciples were invited into relationship before they were sent into mission. Yet so often our Christian lives become consumed with responsibilities, routines and religious activity, and we lose sight of the relationship at the centre of it all. Like a lawn that needs more than constant weeding, our spiritual lives flourish when we intentionally cultivate our relationship with Jesus. Perhaps the greatest danger isn't that we've rejected God, but that we've become satisfied with knowing too little of Him. Jesus invites us beyond familiarity into genuine intimacy, where we don't simply know about Him but learn to enjoy His presence in everyday life. Drawing near to God isn't necessarily about adding more spiritual activities to our already busy schedules, but learning to recognise and enjoy Him in everything we do. The invitation isn't to do more for Jesus, but to discover more of Jesus.

Small Group Questions/Discussions

Key Scripture: Mark 3:13–15

Big Idea: Before Jesus calls us to do anything for Him, He invites us to be with Him. Our relationship with Jesus should be the source of everything we do, not simply another task in our lives.

1. Relationship Before Responsibility - Read Mark 3:13–15 and Luke 10:38–42.

Jesus appointed the twelve first to be with Him, and then to be sent out. Similarly, when Martha was distracted by her responsibilities, Mary chose to sit at Jesus' feet. Jesus wasn't criticising service; He was reminding Martha of what mattered most.

Discuss:

- Why is it so easy for our Christian lives to become more about doing things for Jesus than actually being with Him?
- How can even good things, like serving, reading Scripture or attending church, become distractions from knowing Jesus?
- What might it look like for you to choose “what is better” in your current season of life?

2. Have We Settled for Too Little? - Read Psalm 34:8 and Psalm 63:1–5.

Sometimes we become so familiar with Christianity that we stop being captivated by Christ. We can know the language, understand the theology and participate in church while losing our hunger to discover more of God.

Discuss:

- What's the difference between knowing about God and genuinely enjoying Him?



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- Have you ever experienced a season when your relationship with God felt particularly alive or meaningful? What made it different?
- What do you think prevents us from hungering for more of God's presence?

3. Drawing Near Doesn't Mean Doing More - Read James 4:8 and Colossians 3:17.

Drawing near to God isn't necessarily about finding another hour in the day for spiritual activity. It's about learning to live every hour with an awareness of His presence. Brother Lawrence famously encouraged believers to experience God's presence through ordinary daily activities.

Discuss:

- What would change if you approached your daily routines with a greater awareness of God's presence?
- How can we move from approaching prayer and Bible reading as tasks to seeing them as opportunities to enjoy God?
- What is one ordinary part of your day where you could intentionally recognise God's presence?

4. Putting It Into Practice

Personal Reflection:

Jesus called His disciples to be with Him before sending them out. Intimacy with Jesus doesn't replace mission; it fuels it. This week, rather than adding another spiritual task to your schedule, identify one way you can cultivate a deeper enjoyment of Jesus in something you're already doing.

Take-Home Challenge:

Practise lingering with Jesus this week. Whether through Scripture, prayer, worship, a quiet moment or an ordinary activity, resist the urge to rush. Make room to enjoy His presence rather than simply complete a task.

Closing Question:

Am I spending more energy pulling weeds out of my life than watering my relationship with Jesus?

Prayer:

Pray that God would renew our hunger for Him, move us beyond religious routine and teach us to recognise and enjoy His presence in every part of our lives.