



SPORTS IN FOCUS

A Mixed Response

Mark 3:1-35 • Lesson Two

READY

- If you were to interview shoppers at your local mall, asking the simple question, “Who is Jesus Christ?” what responses would you get?

SET

Context of Mark 3:1-35

After a whirlwind introduction to John the Baptist and to the inaugural events of Christ’s public ministry, Mark continues his concise portrait of Jesus the Servant by comparing and contrasting the reception of Christ by the true disciples, and to a lesser extent, the masses, with the growing opposition to Him by the Jewish religious leaders. Verses 1–6 of chapter 3 contain the last of the 5 conflict episodes that began in chapter 2, and provides a sense of climax to the growing antagonism between Jesus and the Jewish leaders.

Keys to Text

Jewish Religious Leaders: The Pharisees were a small (about 6,000) legalistic sect of the Jews, who were known for their rigid adherence to the ceremonial fine points of the law. The Sadducees denied the resurrection of the dead and the existence of angels, and accepted only the Pentateuch as authoritative. The Herodians were a political party of Jews who backed Herod Antipas.

GO

Read Mark 3:1-35

1. Why was Jesus so angry with the Jewish leaders?
2. With which group do you most identify? Why?
3. How did Jesus’ own family members respond to His ministry? Why?
4. If you had lived during the time of Christ, and had been among the masses watching and listening to Him, how eagerly would you have followed Him? How faithfully? How publicly? Why?
5. What are some modern-day examples of religious leaders or people opposing the very person and work of Christ? How can you avoid doing that?
6. Jesus praises those who do His will. In what specific area or two do you need to conform your life more closely to the will of God?

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The Lord’s purpose in referring to His disciples as His mother and brothers was to teach that He invites the entire world into His intimate and divine family. Anyone can enter His spiritual family by trusting in Him, and the family of God is the only family that ultimately matters.

Tim Tebow played college football for Florida and wore eye black to testify that Jesus Christ is God’s only begotten Son (John 3:16). He wore different Bible verses on his eye black throughout his career. He wore John 3:16 for the National Title game and Phi 3:13 for the entire 2008 season. During the 2009 season, he wore a variety of verses including: John 16:33, Hebrews 12:1-2, Ephesians 2:8-10, Romans 1:16, Joshua 1:8-9, Colossians 3:23, Philipians 4:6-7, Psalms 23:1. Which Bible verse would you choose? Why?