**Those Whom Jesus Desired to be With Him**

**Sermon Based Discussion (February 19, 2017)**

**The Gospel of Mark**

**WARM UP**

1. Have you ever waited or lined up to meet someone famous? Share about any such experiences.

Have you considered how popular Jesus really was during the time of this passage? People wanted to meet Jesus so badly that Jesus was in danger of being crushed by the multitudes.

But Jesus didn’t want to just heal people. Jesus wanted followers who would be with him. In this session, we consider the difference between following Jesus in a crowd compared with really being with Jesus.

**INTO THE BIBLE (Mark 3:7-21)**

1. What were the crowds following Jesus for, and what did he think about that?
2. What plans did Jesus have for the twelve apostles, and what does this tell us about Jesus’ ministry?

**UNDERSTANDING**

1. Why did Jesus order the unclean spirits not to make him known as the Son of God?
2. The crowds followed Jesus but the disciples were *with Jesus*. What’s the difference between following Jesus in a crowd compared to being with Jesus?

**DIFFERENCE**

1. In our daily lives, what does it look like to not merely follow Jesus in a crowd, but really be *with Jesus*?

**APPLICATION**

1. How much do you prioritize simply being with Jesus in your daily life? What is one practical step you can take this week to spend time with Jesus?