

Intro.

- A. Whenever a new construction project is begun, it's not long before people start talking, & watching & speculating over...*what is being built?* School, bank, house, what sort of business, church building...???
1. Those who are **really** curious will *check it out* most every day. They don't want to miss anything.
 2. Also want to be among 1st to know what's happening, & maybe some of 1st customers (unless it's a jail)
- B. The crowds that curiously followed Christ to see what He'd do next were very much like us today.
1. Jesus knew most in the crowds were only curious, but not really interested in His message.
 2. He certainly used their curiosity as an opportunity to teach them the real reason for His being there:
To build something brand new, which he described in 3 diff. ways to help them to better understand.

Discuss.**I. HE WAS BUILDING A NEW NATION. Mk. 3:13-19**

- A. Under the O. T. law, Israel = God's chosen people; 12 tribes composing the nation of Israel.
1. f/ Israel, the Messiah would come into the world, & would provide the means of blessing all nations
 2. By time of Christ's ministry, Israel had been in state of sp. decay for many years.
 3. Therefore, God would estab. a ***holy nation, a peculiar people*** **1 Pt. 2:9** and the 12 apost. = the nucleus of this new nation.
- B. Before choosing ~12, Jesus spent night in prayer, **Lk. 6:12**. He had 3 things in mind as made selections.
1. their training, by his personal example & teaching
 2. sending them out to preach the Gospel
 3. giving them authority to heal & cast out demons (c. **Mk. 6:13**) **2 Tm. 2:2**
- C. The 12 would train w/ Christ, & remain behind after His ascension to continue His work & train others, \\
1. Apostles = men commissioned in official service; eye witnesses of the resurrected Christ.
 2. * * between **vs. 19 & 20** Jesus preached Ser. On Mt., (not in Mark, who focused on what Christ **did**)

II. HE ESTABLISHED A NEW FAMILY. Mk. 3:20-21, 31-35

- A. Jesus' friends believe He = confused, maybe even deranged, & they came to *take charge of Him*, **3:21**.
1. His mother & brethren came f/ 30 miles away (f/ Nazareth) to take Him home, but couldn't even get close
 2. When His family came, Jesus did not attempt to see them, knowing their motives (pure, but wrong).
 3. Jesus again used opportunity to teach about His ***New Family*** = *those who does the will of the Father*
 4. Jesus felt closer to believing publicans & sinners, than to his 1/2 brothers. (c. **Lk. 14:26**)
- B. Lord did not teach us that we have to abandon physical family to follow Him.
1. He certainly taught that His disciples will put God's will above everything else in life.
 2. Your love for God should be so great that love for family seems like hatred in comparison.
 - a. c. **1 Tim. 5:8** – *provide not for our own household, ... worse than unbeliever*
 - b. Those with a *reprobate mind, who do not have God in their mind* = w/o natural affection, **Rom. 1:31**
- C. One enters into a ***NEW FAMILY*** (family of God) in a similar way as we come into a human family.
- a. ...by means of a new birth, **Jn. 3:5**.
 - b. When we obey the Father's will, & keep His commands, we gain entrance into the kingdom of Heaven, **Mt. 7:21** & we are added to the church, which is His body **Ac. 2:41 & Eph. 1:22-23**

III. HE ANNOUNCED A NEW KINGDOM. Mk. 3:22-30 & 4:1-34

- A. Jews hoped Christ would ... **Lk. 10:20**
1. deliver nation & defeat Rome. Instead, called 12 ordinary men & founded new nation, names in heaven \\
 2. wanted Him to behave like loyal Jew & honor His family, but He said His *fam.* = all who trusted Him.
 3. expected Him to restore kgdm. & bring luster to Israel's lost glory, yet He announced a new, sp. kgdm.
- B. ***Kingdom*** = key word in this section of Mark.
1. John announced arrival of King **Mk.1:1-8**, Jesus preached good news of Kgdm **Mk. 1:14f**,
 - a. What would this new kgdm. be like?
 - b. If kgdm. of Israel is not to be restored, what kind of kgdm. would Jesus est.?

2. Christ chose to employ use of parables to help people understand about the new kgdm. he'd est,
 - a. Parables = stories that cease one's attention & arouses interest (personal involvement, see self in it).
 - b. It communicates effectively because it *mirrors* our life in which see self, as well as God & His truth.
 - c. Purpose of parables = to conceal truth f/ the careless listener who was only a curiosity seeker; at same time it revealed truth to one sincerely searching for truth. **Mk. 4:10-12**
3. The Lord put much emphasis on *hearing* God's word (13 X's, **Mk. 4**) = understand & obey, **Js. 1;22-25**
- C. Parables Jesus gave re: the kingdom served as an aid to help His followers discover the nature of kgdm.
 1. Para. re: ***the strong man*** (**vs. 22-30**)
 - a. When Christ healed the demonic (**Mt.12:22ff**), relig. leaders said Christ was working w/ Beelzebub!
 - b. Kdgm. cannot stand if divided (whether of God or Satan).
 - c. Cannot enter strong man's house & plunder unless man is first restrained.
 - d. Lesson: Satan = strong man restrained by one who was superior = Jesus!!!
 - e. Blasphemy of H.S. = unpardonable. ASA Jews believed Christ = instrument of Devil, would never believe on Christ, & therefore could not be saved.
 2. ***The parable of the soils*** **Mk. 4:1-20**
 - a. The main lesson & that the same truth was sown in 4 kinds of men's hearts.
 - b. Wayside, stony, thorny & good soil. Not all are equally productive, but it was worth effort!
 3. ***The parable of the lamp*** **Mk. 4:21-25** => about the hearers (disciples) responsibility to = a beacon.
 - a. Purpose of lamp = produce light. Those hearing truth & obeying should be light to world.
 - b. The fuel of our message = Word of God. That = what makes message effective, powerful. We must proclaim that powerful message, giving *light* to others, or it serves no purpose & they remain in dark.
 4. ***Parable about the mustard seed*** **Mk. 4:26-32**
 - a. It doesn't seem humanly possible that the kingdom could begin w/ just handful of common, doubting men with weak faith, & mature into a world-wide "empire" covering the earth.
 - b. Jesus used parables to explain more & more *as they were able to hear it*.

Concl.

- A. The followers of Christ had a lot to learn, & that had to listen very carefully.
 1. *Take heed what they heard*, **Mk. 4:24** = (beware, look at, behold)
 2. Lk. 8:18 – *take heed how we hear* (in what way/manner, & how much)
- B. Are you a citizen of the new Israel, that *holy nation, the peculiar people* who have separated themselves f/ the world thru obedience to the will of God.
 1. Are you a child of God, having been born again, becoming a new creature in baptism, having had your sins washed away in Jesus blood? Think of the Father's provisions & wishes for His children.
 2. Have you seriously considered the opportunities & responsibilities of being a kingdom citizen.
 - a. Always submissive to the authority of the Lord & King?
 - b. Think of the infinite royalty that is yours to claim & enjoy!
- C. If you are not a Christian yet, you can begin enjoying the benefits & relationship of being in God's family, in His kingdom – a holy nation if you will make up your mind to obey Jesus Christ tonight.