

How to think like Jesus

Opening Scripture: Mark 3:20-22, 31-35

1. Out of His mind

*²¹ But when His own people heard about this, they went out to lay hold of Him, for they said, “**He is out of His mind.**”*

Those are strong words. Jesus was judged to be ‘*out of His mind*’, ‘*beside Himself*’ (Amplified Bible), having ‘*lost His senses*’ (New American Standard).

In the verses that followed, the scribes said that He had a demon. A few verses before that (v.6), the Herodians and the Pharisees who were political archenemies, united to see how they might destroy Jesus. It is hardly surprising that the Pharisees and the Herodians did that. However, the words about Jesus being ‘out of His mind’ didn’t come from His enemies but from ‘*His own people*’.

His own people (those close to Him) in this passage, thought Him to be insane, unfit, mentally imbalanced, incapable – “He is out of His mind”!

I believe that they thought Him to be out of His mind, because what He did was in fact, out of this world!

2. Out of this world

The preceding verses of this chapter, show Jesus in action, doing things that were out of this world!

- a) A man with a withered hand was healed in a Synagogue, right before a lot of people.
- b) Jesus then withdraws to the seashore. People came to Him from everywhere: 7 different places are mentioned, including Tyre and Sidon (that is Lebanon - Gentile territories).
- c) **Verses 10-11** speak of all kinds of healings and deliverance

Certainly nothing like that had ever been seen or reported in the history of Israel. Moses hadn’t done that, Elijah and Elisha neither. This was stuff out of this world!

- d) By **verse 20**, the situation had snow-balled to the point that even His own people thought that it was time for some intervention!

V.20-21 - *²⁰ Then the multitude came together again, so that they could not so much as eat bread. ²¹ But when His own people heard about this, they went out to lay hold of Him, for they said, “He is out of His mind.”*

His own people were seriously worried. This seemed to be out of hand. This had to be stopped and Jesus had to be restrained.

- *they went out to lay hold of Him* – The Amplified Bible says, “*They went out to take Him by force*”.
- The NAS Bible says, “*to take custody*”

His own people were ready to physically restrain Jesus, to take Him by force, to take custody of His person. That is quite extreme. The word in Greek is *Krateo*, which means, *to put under control*.

Eventually, even the mother of Jesus and His brothers came from some 50kms away to speak to him.

They thought that Jesus was out of His mind because He did things out of this world!

Jesus is an amazing Jesus!

3. Jesus wasn't “out of His mind” - He was out of their minds.

What Jesus did, didn't fit the ‘normal’ that they knew, the other synagogue preachers they heard - and His deeds exceeded those of any prophet before Him!

It wasn't madness or foolishness, but it was demonstration of the mind-blowing power of God!

1 Corinthians 1:18 TPT (Passion Translation) *To preach the message of the cross seems like sheer nonsense to those who are on their way to destruction, but to us who are on our way to salvation, it is the mighty power of God released within us.*

1 Corinthians 1:21b ... *“it pleased God through the foolishness of the message preached to save those who believe”*

V.25 - *Because the foolishness of God is wiser than men, and the weakness of God is stronger than men.*

They thought Jesus to be ‘out of His mind’, beside Himself. However, He was not out of His mind, He was simply out of their minds – their natural, limited, way of thinking. To think like Jesus, we need to step out of our own minds and step into the mind of the Lord.

Romans 11:33-34 - *33 Oh, the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are His judgments and His ways past finding out! 34 “For **who has known the mind of the Lord? Or who has become His counsellor?**”*

This is the year to go deeper. We need to go deeper into the mind of Jesus. That is why in the next chapter of Romans (12:1), we are told to renew our minds – to step out of our thinking into His thinking.

4. The mind of Jesus

Who has known the mind of the Lord?

a) **What was in the mind of Jesus that made them think that He was mad?**

- The mind of Jesus was set on doing good and saving lives (Mark 3:1-4)

V.4 - *Is it lawful on the Sabbath to do good or to do evil, to save life or to kill?*

Jesus hasn't changed His mind. He is still doing good and saving lives.

- The mind of Jesus was set on healing people and setting them free (verses 10-11, 14-15)
- The mind of Jesus was set on doing the will of God (verses 31-35)

b) **Why is it important for us to know the mind of Jesus?**

Because **Philippians 2:5** says, "*Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus*"

1 Corinthians 2:10-16 - *¹⁰ But God has revealed them to us through His Spirit. For the Spirit searches all things, yes, **the deep things of God**. ¹¹ For what man knows the things of a man except the spirit of the man which is in him? Even so no one knows the things of God except the Spirit of God. ¹² Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, that we might know the things that have been freely given to us by God ¹³ These things we also speak, not in words which man's wisdom teaches but which the Holy Spirit teaches, comparing spiritual things with spiritual. ¹⁴ But the natural man does not receive the things of the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him; nor can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned. ¹⁵ But he who is spiritual judges all things, yet he himself is rightly judged by no one. ¹⁶ For "**who has known the mind of the Lord that he may instruct Him?**" **But we have the mind of Christ.***

When we stand for those things and believe those deeper things of God, the world may also think that we have lost our marbles, that we are beside ourselves, that we are out of our minds. They said that of the Apostle Paul:

Acts 26:24b, "*Paul, you are beside yourself! Much learning is driving you mad!*"

2 Corinthians 5:13 - *For if we are beside ourselves, it is for God; or if we are of sound mind, it is for you.*

Conclusion

Permission to lose your marbles! To think like Jesus, you need to be out of your mind and into the mind of Christ. You need to renew your mind with His thoughts.

Remember that *the foolishness of God is wiser than man and the weakness of God stronger than man.*

The thoughts of God are higher than our thoughts (**Isaiah 55:9**).