Sunday, August 25, 2019 Mark Moser

Go Small

Mark 3:13–20
(Black Bibles pg. 838; Children's Bibles pg. 1215)

"The goal is to change the world" – you hear a lot about this goal today.

God starts small – often with a family:

- *Creation*. Only two humans at first, but they have a mandate to grow in number: "Be fruitful and multiply." (Genesis 1:28)

- *Redemption.* Starting with Abram, in whom "all the families of the world shall be blessed" (Genesis 12:3).

    - Also, consider the Parable of the Mustard Seed (Matthew 13:31-32; reflect also on Romans 5:12-21).

[Mark 3:13-20] Why did Jesus choose the twelve?

1. _____
   (Mark 3:14-15)

2. _____
   (Mark 3:14; and it worked! – see Acts 4:13)

God's plan for change on a large scale ("changing the world") is surprisingly based on work on a small scale, through deep contact with a few people.

Why did Jesus' ministry go small? And why do our lives and Christian experience have to be small as well?

1. Many specific questions can be asked.
    - *Examples from Jesus' ministry.*
    - *For our lives?*
2. You get to see authenticity up close.
    - *Examples from Jesus' ministry.*
    - *For our lives?*
3. The importance of being known
    - *Examples from Jesus' ministry.*
    - *For our lives?*

Go small in your life!

- Small groups
- What's the most important small group of all?

<u>Questions for Reflection and Discussion:</u>
1. Read Mark 3:13-20 (and any parallel passages you might find). Why exactly did Jesus choose the twelve? How does 3:20 inform us of the challenges of his ministry and how it relates to "going small"?
2. Read Matthew 13:31-33. We might expect the kingdom of heaven to come with a massive, angelic army. Jesus said it is like a mustard seed. How so?
3. The sermon discussed at least three strengths to Jesus' "small" approach with the twelve. Do you have any to add?
4. For a healthy life in Christ, what is the importance of our participation with a small group of believers? Be specific.