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Mark: Eyewitness to History Week of March 5

*We Are All In This Together Rev. Kyle Gatlin*

(Mark 3:13-15) Jesus went up on a mountainside and called to him those he wanted, and they came to him. 14 He appointed twelve that they might be with him and that he might send them out to preach 15 and to have authority to drive out demons.

**When Jesus appointed the twelve He increased his influence**

(Mark 6:7) Calling the Twelve to him, he began to send them out two by two and gave them authority over impure spirits.

(Mark 6:12-13) They went out and preached that people should repent. 13They drove out many demons and anointed many sick people with oil and healed them.

(Mark 6:30) The apostles gathered around Jesus and reported to him all they had done and taught.

**When we follow Jesus His influence increases**

(Acts 1:8) But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.”

**Influence doesn’t determine receptivity**

(Mark 4:13-20) Then Jesus said to them, “Don’t you understand this parable? How then will you understand any parable? 14The farmer sows the word. 15Some people are like seed along the path, where the word is sown. As soon as they hear it, Satan comes and takes away the word that was sown in them. 16Others, like seed sown on rocky places, hear the word and at once receive it with joy. 17But since they have no root, they last only a short time. When trouble or persecution comes because of the word, they quickly fall away. 18Still others, like seed sown among thorns, hear the word; 19but the worries of this life, the deceitfulness of wealth and the desires for other things come in and choke the word, making it unfruitful. 20Others, like seed sown on good soil, hear the word, accept it, and produce a crop—some thirty, some sixty, some a hundred times what was sown.”

**We are all in this together, but only God...**

(1 Corinthians 3:5-9) What, after all, is Apollos? And what is Paul? Only servants, through whom you came to believe—as the Lord has assigned to each his task. 6I planted the seed, Apollos watered it, but God has been making it grow. 7So neither the one who plants nor the one who waters is anything, but only God, who makes things grow. 8The one who plants and the one who waters have one purpose, and they will each be rewarded according to their own labor. 9For we are co-workers in God’s service; you are God’s field, God’s building.