COUNTERFEIT FAITH

Mark 3:7-12 (ESV) 7 Jesus withdrew with his disciples to the sea, and a great crowd
followed, from Galilee and Judea 8 and Jerusalem and Idumea and from beyond the
Jordan and from around Tyre and Sidon. When the great crowd heard all that he was
doing, they came to him. 9 And he told his disciples to have a boat ready for him because
of the crowd, lest they crush him, 10 for he had healed many, so that all who had diseases
pressed around him to touch him. 11 And whenever the unclean spirits saw him, they fell
down before him and cried out, "You are the Son of God." 12 And he strictly ordered them
not to make him known.

Introduction: There's a sense of exhilaration accompanying Jesus' ministry at this important juncture. His fame is spreading. Crowds are flocking to hear him. Mark gives us an important summary as he transitions into the next phase of Jesus' ministry.

I. **The Popularity of Jesus** — vv. 7-8

II. **The Compassion of Jesus** — vv. 9-10

III. **The Authority of Jesus** — vv. 11-12

Three elements of saving faith:

- Knowledge
- Assent
- Trust — This is the work of the Holy Spirit in the heart. It is a Christ-specific faith. Martin Luther says, "The life of Christianity consists in possessive pronouns." It is one thing to say "Christ *is* a Savior." It is quite another to say "Christ is *my* Savior and *my* Lord." The latter indicates personal appropriation of the truth and trust.