

THIS WEEK'S MESSAGE

JUNE 7TH–8TH, 2025 // GOSPEL OF MARK

ANGER (MARK 3:1–6)

“JESUS ENTERED THE SYNAGOGUE AGAIN”

When Jesus went back to the synagogue, He saw a disabled man. At this time, people thought infirmities were caused by sin, and they were ostracized from the community.

- “In order to accuse Him” leads many to believe that the disabled man was a plant from the Pharisees to trap Jesus.

HEALING WAS CONSIDERED WORK

The Pharisees closely watched Jesus to see if He would break the rules and heal on the Sabbath. Ironically, they must have believed He was capable of such miracles.

- **Often times people wrongfully use religious practice to deny human need because they want to prove a point.**

JESUS DOESN'T GET INTIMIDATED

Jesus knew what the Pharisees were up to, and He had the man stand in front of everyone for a few reasons: **1)** The man had to admit his need, **2)** The miracle would further prove Jesus' identity, and **3)** Jesus wanted everyone to see that **human need takes precedence over religious law.**

“IS IT LAWFUL TO DO GOOD ON THE SABBATH...”

The one being tested became the tester. Jesus asked the Pharisees to interpret the law for Him to expose the hardness of their hearts.

- **Hardness of heart is a sin of attitude. When we neglect human need, we commit a sin of omission and are dishonoring God.**

IN LOVE WITH RULES MORE THAN PEOPLE

Jesus “look[ed] around at them with anger” because **the religious people had become insensitive to others in the name of piety and being right.**

- **Righteous anger is justified in the face of neglect, injustice, and brokenness. Do we love people more than law?**

FAITH AND POLITICS

After Jesus healed the man, the Pharisees partnered with a political group that supported Herod Antipas to plot Jesus' murder.

- **Jesus cares about people, not political or religious status quo. Caring more about politics or religion than people diminishes our humanity.**
- We often put the cart before the horse. It isn't that we should not be engaged in society but that we must remember that without heart change, the law is powerless. In essence, we can follow the laws and still be lost.
- **The mission of the church is to touch hearts through the message of Christ.**

FOLLOWERS? (MARK 3:7–19)

FOLLOWING FOR THE WRONG REASON

Jesus left the synagogue and went to the Sea of Galilee. Large crowds followed Him, even from Gentile areas, because of “everything He was doing.”

- Most of these people sought out Jesus not because of Who He is but for the miracles He performed.

DO WE TRY TO USE OR REFASHION GOD?

Many Jews and even the disciples thought of Jesus as a means to liberate them from Rome.

- **Do we reduce Jesus to an enabling gift-giver or politician who overthrows a liberal gov't? Jesus did not come to be Santa Claus or save us from gov'ts, He came to save us from sin and destruction.**

“UNCLEAN SPIRITS”

Vs. 11–12 mention that demons would see Jesus and “[fall] down before Him and [cry] out, ‘You are the Son of God!’”

- We learn a few things: demonic possession is real, demons know who Jesus is, and demons are powerless against Him.

WHY COULDN'T THEY “MAKE HIM KNOWN”?

Biblically, God commissions only those who have experienced divine grace to be witnesses and testify as to Who He is.

- The “unclean spirits” had no right to “make Him known” because they were not in relationship with Jesus and did not truly “know” Him.

THE 12 APOSTLES

In a dangerous and lonely time in Jesus' life, He called 12 men to be close friends. He granted these men authority to teach His principles and perform miracles in His name.

- 11 of these 12 men would be the catalysts for the news of Jesus to spread to the entire world.
- **Peter:** Was the leader of the 1st-Century Church, crucified upside down in Rome.
- **James (Zeb):** First disciple to be martyred, killed by the sword in Jerusalem.
- **John:** Only one to die natural death, but also boiled alive and exiled.
- **Andrew:** Brought gospel to what is modern-day Russia and Greece. He was crucified.
- **Bartholomew:** Took gospel to India and Arabian regions, skinned alive.
- **Thomas:** Ministered in Syria and Iraq, stabbed to death by four soldiers.
- **James (Alphaeus):** Preached in Israel, stoned and clubbed to death.
- **Matthew:** Ministered in Ethiopia and stabbed to death in Africa.
- **Philip:** Ministered in Asia Minor, crucified upside down.
- **Thaddaeus:** Preached in north Syria. He was beaten to death then beheaded.

- **Simon the Zealot:** Ministered in Spain and Persia. Was sawn in half.
- **Judas:** Sold out Jesus to the authorities. Died by suicide.

DIVIDED (MARK 3:20–30)

AGAIN, THE CROWDS GATHER

When Jesus was speaking in another crowded house, His family got word and “set out to restrain Him, because they said ‘He's out of His mind.’”

- Jesus' family had probably seen many fake “messiahs” come and go, and they were afraid Jesus was becoming one.

THE ACCUSATIONS BEGIN

The religious authorities were no longer silent, and they accused Jesus of being possessed by *Beelzebub*, the Jewish mocking of Baal that means *lord of the flies* or *lord of nothing*.

- They could not deny Jesus was casting out demons, so they accused Him of doing it by being possessed Himself.

DEFENDING HIMSELF

Jesus rarely defended Himself, but this accusation was exceptional. So, He took time to explain things to the crowd.

- Jesus' logical question, “How can Satan drive out Satan?” reveals that **division within any house is foolish and inevitably leads to destruction.**

IT TAKES SOMEONE STRONGER THAN SATAN

If one is to “plunder” a “strong man,” they have to be strong enough to bind him. Only something stronger than Satan can cast evil out.

- Ultimately there's no such thing as “self help.” **If we are to truly flourish, we need Jesus to save us and bind the evil that comes to war against us.**

THE UNFORGIVABLE SIN OF BLASPHEMY

“Truly I tell you” is Jesus introducing a serious topic. The one sin Jesus says will not be forgiven is blasphemy against the Holy Spirit, something most Pharisees were guilty of.

- Because of their power, comfort, and man-made rules, the Pharisees missed God working right in front of them.

PRIDE LEADS TO THE UNFORGIVABLE

Blasphemy of the Holy Spirit is essentially **willful rejection of God**. If one refuses to humble themselves and repent, they cannot be forgiven because they are unwilling to ask.

- **Narcissism and moral relativism deceive many to think there is no evil within themselves. This is dangerous!**

FAMILY (MARK 3:31–35)

INTERRUPTED BY HIS FAMILY

As Jesus was schooling the religious leaders, His biological family (who were not all convinced He was the Savior) arrived.

- Though His response, “Who are my mother and brothers?” seems harsh, He was making the point that **real family is determined by more than blood.**

SO, WHAT IS TRUE FAMILY?

Jesus makes it clear that His true family is those who “[do] the will of God.” Jesus loves everyone, but not everyone is in His family.

- **True disciples, or “brothers and sisters” of Jesus, humbly submit to the commands of God and place themselves at the Master's feet.**

PEOPLE ARE THE MISSION OF JESUS

- Eternal salvation and present restoration are the mission of Christ. If we are to be saved and restored, **we must admit we need His help.**
- **Jesus did not come to save politics, religion, or culture. He came to save mankind and restore them to the Father.**

JESUS AND PEOPLE SHOULD BE OUR MISSION

- First and foremost, we are to love and live for Christ. In order to truly do this, we are also called to love and care for people.
- Because people are difficult and we are flawed, **it is easy to let religion, rules, politics, and winning arguments take precedent over loving and serving others.**

HARD HEARTS AND BLASPHEMING THE SPIRIT

- Because we live in a self-centered culture, it is common that people refashion Jesus into their image. **In selfishness, we can easily develop a heart that is cold towards others and excessively complimentary of ourselves. Pride rejects repentance, and if not addressed, that sin is unforgivable.**

TRUE FOLLOWERS/FAMILY

- **Not everyone who calls themselves Christians are in the family of Jesus.** He made it clear that only those who follow the will of God (His Word and conviction) are His “brothers and sisters.”
- **Is He our first pursuit? Are we reliant? Do we joyfully obey? Do we love others?**