

# THIS WEEK'S MESSAGE

JUNE 7TH-8TH, 2025 // GOSPEL OF MARK

## HARDNESS (MARK 3:1-6) SABBATH RECAP

Recall the interaction between Jesus and the Pharisees as He and His disciples walked through the grain fields.

- Later, as He entered the synagogue for worship, He saw a man with a shriveled hand. The Pharisees closely observed Him to see if He **would heal** the man.

## WHO DID THEY SEE?

Jesus viewed the man as someone in need of compassion, while the Pharisees only saw an opportunity to accuse Jesus.

- **How often do we let our desire to prove a point blind us to those in need of our compassion?**

## STAND BEFORE US

Jesus, undeterred by the Pharisees' trap, has the man stand before them, demonstrating that people take precedence over tradition.

- Just as Jesus faced scrutiny, the world is watching us as Christians. **Some are eager to discredit us, while others are simply waiting to see if we truly believe what we profess. So, what do we believe?**

## HARDNESS OF HEART

Jesus, upon questioning their silence, was grieved by their stubbornness not to repent.

- Their hearts had become so hardened that only a complete breaking could lead to healing. **Where in our lives do we need our hearts to be broken so that we can truly see Jesus?**

## AN UNLIKELY ALLIANCE

Their passion for the law led them down a dark path as they conspired to commit murder. In so doing, they allied themselves with the Herodians.

- **The fear of losing everything they held dear fueled their intense hatred. How often have we allowed fear to dictate our actions?**

## MULTITUDE (MARK 3:7-12) JESUS DEPARTED

We witness Jesus departing with His disciples, likely to teach them privately about everything that had transpired with the Pharisees.

- Once again, we see Jesus' longing for a quiet place to escape distractions. **Are we taking the time to step away from what distracts us from our purpose?**

## THE CROWDS FOLLOWED

Once again, we see crowds gathering to see Jesus from all around the surrounding areas. They had heard of all His remarkable wonders and **did not want to miss the "show."**

- The people were focused on their desires rather than on Jesus' need for rest. **They wanted Jesus for what He could do for them. What are we concerned about?**

## HE MINISTERS STILL

No matter the reasons behind the crowd's presence, Jesus healed them, all while maintaining a safety net in case the crowds became overwhelming.

- This reflects the beauty of the gospel: **regardless of our motivations for coming to Christ, He is always able to move powerfully in our lives.**

## UNCLEAN SPIRIT

We observe yet another demonic spirit declaring Jesus as the Son of God, yet having no intention of following Him.

- **Mere acknowledgment of Jesus does not equate to true faith. It is only through following Jesus and embracing His teachings that we can experience authentic freedom!**

## APOSTLES (MARK 3:13-19) THOSE HE WANTED

Of the people Jesus called, they were quick-tempered, weak in their faith, and often oblivious.

- **The beauty lies in the fact that Jesus did not need any of them to accomplish His mission after He left, yet He chose them because He wanted them.**

## DISCREPANCY

Upon examining the list of names in relation to Luke, we notice a discrepancy. Luke refers to Judas the son of James, while in Matthew and Mark, the name Thaddeus is used.

- This refers to the same individual, but because the name Judas had negative connotations, a distinction was made to avoid confusion.

## BRUTAL HONESTY

Jesus did not choose the disciples for their talents or abilities but for their willingness to obey Him.

- **Even if we feel we have little to offer God, that should not sway us from drawing near to Him. He longs for us to come with open and willing hearts.**

## DIVIDED (MARK 3:20-30) OPPOSITION

Here we see the crowds overwhelming Jesus to the point that he could not even eat. Additionally, His family tries to intervene and stop His ministry.

- **When Jesus comes into our lives, everything changes, creating opposition. Are we facing opposition?**

## POSSESSED

A new delegation of teachers of the law came to challenge Jesus by calling Him possessed by Beelzebub (lord of the flies).

- They attempted to undermine His reputation because **they did not want Him as their Lord. Instead, they wanted someone who mirrored their beliefs. Are we willing to let Jesus transform our beliefs rather than conform to ours?**

## KINGDOM DIVIDED

Jesus was not afraid of confrontation. He immediately showed them the error in their thought. **Why would Satan work against himself to limit his power?**

- Only someone stronger than Satan could drive him out. **Jesus was freeing people from Satan's grasp then, and He continues today.**

## BLASPHEMIES FORGIVEN

**Jesus reminds us that no matter our past actions, or even the blasphemies we have spoken, forgiveness is always within reach.**

- It is easy to miss the beautiful promise made by Jesus because of the warning. Remember that **when we confess and repent, no sin is beyond God's boundless forgiveness.**

## BLASPHEMIES UNFORGIVEN

Jesus conveys the nature of the unforgivable sin: the blasphemy of the Holy Spirit.

- **This sin transcends mere actions or words; it embodies an attitude that denies the transformative power of Christ in our lives. It represents a deliberate rejection of God's work.**

## FAMILY (MARK 3:31-35) STANDING OUTSIDE

Jesus' family arrives at His house but could not get in, thinking they were there to "help" Jesus yet unaware that they were actually attempting to hinder His ministry.

- **It is easy to lose sight of what Jesus is trying to accomplish when we start to focus on our own interests and needs, especially when we believe we are doing it "for" Jesus.**

## HERE THEY ARE

Instead of acknowledging that His family was outside, **He made a point to show that anyone who is a part of God's true family is His family.**

- **This inclusion did not diminish His care for His own family;** He provided for His mother's security on the cross and empowered His brothers to become strong leaders in the Church at Pentecost.

## THE WILL OF GOD

**Everyone is welcome in Christ's family, no matter your race, ethnicity, nationality, or gender. We all have equal access to a relationship with God when we seek Him.**

- While many people may have been present in the room, only a few were truly recognized as His brothers and sisters. **Who do we represent in the room?**

## CURIOUS

- People were drawn to Jesus for many reasons. Many were simply curious—some came to witness the "show" and others to challenge Him, while some sought a deeper understanding of who He was.

- **Why are we here?**
- **Do we truly desire to know Jesus more deeply, or are we here for the "show"?**

## GOD'S CALL

- Jesus does not need us, but He wants us.
- **He is calling us into a transformative relationship with Him. Is this something we desire?**
- **Jesus not only calls us into relationship but to serve others in love and to build His Church. No matter what your skills are, He has a place for you. Are we willing to answer the call?**

## FAMILY

- No matter your family background, God desires to offer something better.
- **Being part of God's family requires us to humbly sit in the circle, at His feet, and be disciplined by Him.**
- **Are we willing to let go of our wants and desires to embrace His will for us?**