

## THIS WEEK'S MESSAGE

JUNE 8TH, 2025 // GOSPEL OF MARK

### HEALING (MARK 3:1-6)

#### TOPICAL NOT CHRONOLOGICAL CONTINUATION

Mark continues to show how Jesus is **Lord of the Sabbath** and how the religious people of this time have put **religious law and rituals over human need**.

- The Pharisees watched Jesus as He **entered the synagogue again** to see if He would **heal a man with a shriveled hand on the Sabbath**.

#### ANYONE CAN POINT OUT "WRONGS"

They watched Jesus closely, not to see the good He was doing, but to find Him doing something they deemed wrong so they could **accuse Him**.

- If we are wanting to find something "wrong" in an individual, we will find it. We do not ignore truth, but **we have to choose to see the good in people**.

#### A GROSS MISUSE OF RELIGION (JAMES 1:27)

The language of the text has led some to assume that the man with the shriveled hand was placed there as a trap to lure Jesus into healing on the Sabbath.

- The religious leaders did not doubt that Jesus *could heal* but wanted to see if He *would heal*. They **weaponized their religion while ignoring human need, just to prove a point**.

#### "STAND BEFORE US"

Jesus could have healed the man on the next day or in private, but He chose this time and place.

- By doing this, Jesus points out that we must first **acknowledge our need for help**. This miracle would further **prove Jesus' authority** and point out that **people take priority over rules**.

#### THEY HAD PLENTY TO SAY BUT STAYED SILENT

Jesus asked the Pharisees, **"Is it lawful to do good on the Sabbath or to do evil, to save life or to kill?"** To give the obvious answer would reveal their own error. They **stayed silent**, not willing to respond to Jesus.

- Jesus asks questions in a way **that exposes the listeners' hearts. He points out the error in our ways. Will we respond or stay silent?**

#### HARDENED HEARTS

Jesus looked at his opponents with **anger** and was **grieved at the hardness of their hearts**.

- It angered Jesus that in the name of "god" they **ignored the purposes of God and the sufferings of people**. It grieved Him that **their minds were set against Him** to the point that, as He did "good," they plotted "evil" against Him, teaming up with the Herodians to kill Him.

### MULTITUDES (MARK 3:7-19)

#### "HEARD ABOUT EVERYTHING HE WAS DOING"

There were disciples in the crowds, as well as those who seemed to follow Jesus because they were attracted by the miraculous works more than His message.

- We should be drawn to Jesus, but **our focus should be on who Jesus is and what He has done more than on what He can do for us**.

#### "YOU ARE THE SON OF GOD"

The demons knew the divine nature of Jesus without ever submitting to Him (James 2:19). Jesus will later ask his disciples, **"Who do you say that I am?"** (Mark 8:27-29).

- We must do more than acknowledge who Jesus is; we must **respond to who He is and what He has done with humility and obedience**.

#### JESUS' CLOSE DISCIPLES AND INNER CIRCLE

Jesus had the **multitude of disciples** who followed Him, and He had those whom He invited into a **closer circle of companions**. Within that circle, He had **three He went even deeper with**: Peter, James, and John.

- Luke 6:12 shows us how **Jesus spent the night in prayer before appointing His 12 disciples to take His message to the world**.

#### THE 12 APOSTLES

- **Simon** was given the name Peter, meaning "rock," by Jesus. He was the leader and foundation of the early church in the book of Acts.
- **James** and **John** (sons of Zebedee) were named the "Sons of Thunder." John was the "beloved disciple," writing a Gospel, three letters, and Revelation.
- **Andrew**, a disciple of John the Baptist, was Simon Peter's brother and the one to introduce him to Jesus.
- **Philip** was an early follower who told his friend **Bartholomew** (Nathanael) about Jesus.
- **Matthew** (Levi) was the tax collector in Mark 2:14.
- **Thomas** was called "Twin" and is known as "Doubting Thomas," but he was the only one willing to die with Jesus (John 11:16).
- **James the son of Alphaeus** is known as "James the Lesser (younger)."
- **Thaddaeus** is referred to in other lists of disciples as "Judas the son of James" (Luke 6:16) or "Judas (not Iscariot)" (John 14:22).
- **Simon the Zealot** was once a religious extremist set on using any means necessary to overthrow Rome.
- **Judas Iscariot** was the disciple who would eventually betray Jesus.

### ACCUSATIONS (MARK 3:20-30)

#### "HE'S OUT OF HIS MIND."

Jesus often faced criticism from religious and political leaders of His time, but here we see that He faced accusations and criticism from His relatives.

- John 7:3-5 shows us that during Jesus' earthly ministry **His own brothers did not believe in Him and tried to goad Him into proving Himself**.

#### "HE IS POSSESSED BY BEELZEBUL"

The scribes' assessment of Jesus and His ministry would have carried a lot of weight.

- Their "official" assessment was that Jesus was **possessed by Satan**. We saw previously in Mark 3:6 that there was a plot to kill Jesus. But before they could kill Him, **they attempted to discredit Him in the eyes of the multitude**.

#### A HOUSE DIVIDED CANNOT STAND

Jesus responded to His accusers with a logical question: **"How can Satan drive out Satan?"** If Satan worked against himself then his end had come, but Satan was still active.

- In v. 27, Jesus is saying it takes someone stronger than Satan to bind Satan and plunder his house, and **He is the one with the authority and power to free those in Satan's grasp**.

#### ARE THERE SINS THAT UNFORGIVEABLE?

If **we reject the work of the Holy Spirit** (John 16:8) and **what He wants to tell us about Jesus** (John 15:26) we blaspheme the Holy Spirit.

- It's not an unforgiveable sin because it's "too big" for God to forgive but because it's a heart issue that cares nothing for God's forgiveness. **A person who blasphemes the Holy Spirit never has forgiveness because they don't want it**.

### FAMILY OF GOD (MARK 3:31-35)

#### "LOOKING AT THOSE SITTING... AROUND HIM"

Jesus was not being harsh or disrespectful to His mother or siblings when He asked, **"Who are my mother and my brothers?"**

- By calling His disciples (sitting in a circle around Him) His mother and brothers, He was showing that there is **a family, established through His blood, that transcends our earthly bloodlines**.

#### NO LONGER "CHILDREN UNDER WRATH" (EPHESIANS 2:3)

Jesus extends an invitation to us and sets the requirements for us being a part of His family.

- Jesus says, **"Whoever does the will of God is my brother and sister and mother."** Everyone is made in the image of God, but **only those who are obedient to Jesus are adopted as children of God**.

### RELATIONSHIPS

- The Pharisees knew about Jesus, but they did not know Him. **Do we have knowledge about Jesus or a relationship with Jesus?** A knowledge of Christ should draw us to Him, but a relationship is what keeps us with Him.
- What is our **relationship with those around us?** We have many acquaintances but only a **small circle of people who know us intimately**.

### FAMILY OF GOD

- God is a Father to the fatherless (Psalm 68:5). Adoption into the family of God offers us something so many are lacking in their earthly families: **loving relationships and a bond deeper than human blood**.
- We have a family, though much like our earthly family, **the family of God is full of imperfect people**.