

THIS WEEK'S MESSAGE

JUNE 8TH, 2025 // GOSPEL OF MARK

OPPOSITION (MARK 3:1-6) WATCHING HIM CLOSELY

Jesus had entered the synagogue again to teach and many had followed Him. Mark makes it clear that the Pharisees were not there to learn; they wanted to “catch” Jesus breaking the law again.

- **Some things never change. There will always be a faction that seeks to discredit what God is doing. When minors become majors, the real majors get pushed aside.**

STAND BEFORE US

Jesus had no intention of backing down. Before He confronted His challengers, He called the man with the shriveled hand to Him. This man stood before Jesus, even when there were religious men there to condemn them both.

- **We want to look like Jesus, but we look more like the Pharisees when we look down on those with “shriveled hands.” The truth is we are the ones with shriveled hands and we need Jesus more than ever. Will we stand?**

ANGER AND GRIEF

Jesus exposed their motives with a simple question that had an obvious answer. They were silent because they had no intention of answering. It angered and grieved Jesus to see their love of religious tradition but insensitivity to the man's need.

- **We are challenged again to examine our hearts and evaluate our motives. Are we finding the joy that Christ gives to those who serve in His name, or do we serve ourselves?**

STRETCH OUT YOUR HAND

Jesus could see every heart in the room, and He knew that healing this man would provoke the religious leaders to join their own enemies and plot to kill Him. He still healed the man. Jesus would not be stopped!

- **What is stopping us from living and serving the way we know Jesus wants us to? We imagine scenarios and become too afraid to stand up for the right thing. It may be time to focus on Jesus and stretch out our hands.**

PRESSURE (MARK 3:7-12) A LARGE CROWD FOLLOWED

People from every direction heard about Jesus the healer and came to see, hear, and touch Him. There was great diversity in the crowd because Jesus was healing all types of people!

- **We should note that these people came from far away and had not heard Jesus; they heard about Jesus and then sought Him. How are we making Jesus known in our community? Nothing is better than firsthand testimony about WHO He is and WHAT He has done.**

SO THAT THE CROWD WOULDN'T CRUSH HIM

Jesus had withdrawn to the sea, maybe to seek some quiet time with His disciples. This was rare because His ministry was marked with crowds pressing in to touch Him while He taught the Word and performed miracles.

- Some will read this and judge the motives of the crowd but that is not addressed in this text.
- **Jesus can protect Himself from being crushed. We cannot let the mayhem keep us from Jesus and we should not be the chaos!**

“YOU ARE THE SON OF GOD!”

Jesus' silencing of the unclean spirits showed that He would not accept every response to His identity.

- Some speculate that the silencing came from Jesus' need to disassociate Himself from them. Basically, He did not want them being His publicists and marketers.
- **Jesus rejected their responses, not ours! We should be making Jesus known because of WHO He is and WHAT He has done.**

APPOINTED (MARK 3:13-19) APOSTLES

Jesus again goes to a quiet place, then summons the ones He wants to speak to directly. He chose 12 to be apostle-disciples to be sent out.

- They were not being sent exclusively but uniquely. They were to walk with Jesus for the full three-year length of His ministry and have a special relationship with Him.

SENT OUT

As apostles, they had three roles.

- First, they were to be with Him and learn directly from Him the truth of His identity.
- Second, they were to preach on His behalf.
- Third, they would have authority to cast out demons.
- They would proclaim the Kingdom of God and demonstrate the power of that Kingdom.

PETER, JAMES, AND JOHN

Three apostles received unique names. Changing names often happens as roles are revealed in the Bible (Abraham).

- There has been much speculation about the significance of their names, but it is unclear.
- We do know that these three will be with Jesus on some special occasions: Healing of Jairus's daughter (5:37), Transfiguration (9:2), and Gethsemane (14:33).

ETERNAL SIN (MARK 3:20-30) “SET OUT TO RESTRAIN HIM”

Again, a crowd forms and fills the house so that they could not even eat.

- Jesus' family had perceptions of how He should act if He was normal and in His right mind.
- The religious leaders had a perception of how He should act if He was obeying the law.
- **Some will label Jesus followers as crazy rather than normal. They will try to “reel us in” when God is sending us out.**

“HE IS POSSESSED BY BEELZEBUL”

The scribes specifically label the works of Jesus as demonic.

- They were copiers of the law and thought they were experts of the law and able to stand in judgment over it.
- **Reading and memorizing Scripture does not make us experts. Without the guidance of the Holy Spirit, we are in danger of weaponizing the Word to lift ourselves instead of Christ.**

THE KINGDOM/FAMILY PARABLE

Jesus questioned the absurdity of saying that He was empowered by Satan to drive out Satan.

- Neither a kingdom nor a family will survive with internal fighting.
- Jesus must be from outside Satan's kingdom to defeat unclean spirits.
- **Jesus said this to expose the error of their argument. We can also learn a truth about unity within our families.**

THE STRONG MAN PARABLE

Jesus explains the impossibility of robbing a strong man's house without first binding him.

- Jesus must come from outside of Satan's “house” to ransack Satan's realm.
- This is not a mandate to bind Satan. He is not giving authority to do so.
- **Jesus is demonstrating His authority and revealing the source of His power. It is His job to bind the strong man.**

BLASPHEMY AGAINST THE HOLY SPIRIT

This text is a response to the scribes' accusations.

- Blasphemy is the willful and conscious rejection of God's activities and/or the attribution of His works to the devil.
- Their hardened hearts were willful, malicious, and beyond the possibility of repentance.
- They were guilty of an eternal sin: complete rejection of God, Christ, and the Holy Spirit.

FAMILY (MARK 3:31-35) HIS MOTHER AND HIS BROTHERS

Unlike the scribes who wanted to destroy Jesus, His family sought to protect Him.

- They had good intentions but were ill-informed.
- His mother and brothers may not have been aware of the time that Jesus took to be alone with His Father.
- **They saw the chaos and missed the mission: to serve and save.**

THE WILL OF GOD

Rather than making a statement that is dishonoring to His mother, Jesus establishes a spiritual family based on obedience to the will of God.

- **Instead of following simple personal desires and pleasures, we should do what God desires.**
- **Are our desires leading us closer to God or away from Him?**

SUPPORT

- There is so much to do!
- **We need support to get things done.**
- **We want people to believe in us and help us with encouragement and engagement. Are the things we are trying to get done first really the first things that need to get done? If we have the same mission, why are we not helping each other?**

PRIORITIES

- Some things are more important than others.
- **What we see as important is directly related to our interests and passions.**
- **Many things are good and so many things need to get done. Our problem is we fill our days with these things and forget our mission. Do we know how or when our mission gets done?**

WOVEN

- The mission (obedience to God) is not what we do instead of everything else.
- **Obedience becomes our top priority when we see it woven into every part of our lives.**
- **We can overcome opposition and pressure when we follow Christ into the crazy days between our quiet times with Him. How will we begin to love and serve Him as we live in the chaos of life this week?**