

Mark 3

Mark 3.1-6

V1 – Why was Jesus in the synagogue? *Luke 4.16* says that it was on the Sabbath, and Jesus was faithful in attendance

- What kind of person did Jesus meet there?** Man with withered hand
- Legend says that he was a bricklayer and needed the hand to support his family (maybe Carpel-Tunnel Syndrome)

V2 – What was the attitude of the Pharisees? No concern for the man; no concern for Jesus as the Son of God

- Today, there are some people who just like to argue
- They are not interested in learning the truth
- It does no good to try to argue with them
- The Pharisees were that way

V3 – What did Jesus say to this man? Get up and come here (note the tone of authority)

V4 – What a tense scene this must have been: Sabbath day, man with crippled hand, Jesus with the ability to heal the hand, but the Pharisees did not believe that it was scriptural to heal on the Sabbath

- What a question Jesus asked them: Could a person do evil on the Sabbath?** Of course, so if people can do evil on the Sabbath, then they can do good – What incredible logic!
- Why did they keep silent?** Because they could not answer his argument

V5 – Did Jesus ever get angry in this life? Yes, right here

Read Ephesians 4.26-27 – It is possible to be angry without sinning

- Why was Jesus mad here?** Because of their unbelief and hardness of heart
- What did Jesus do next?** Told the man to stretch out his hand, and it was healed

V6 – What was the reaction of the Pharisees? Began to plot how to kill Jesus

- Incredible: they were not impressed with the miracle of the man having his hand back
- Today, there are some people who really don't care what we say to them about the gospel; they are just not interested in the truth
- Herodians = followers of King Herod
- Why would they plot with the Herodians?** They needed Herod's help to kill Jesus (also: Herod had already killed John the Baptist)

Mark 3.7-12

V7 – Why did Jesus leave that area? The Jewish leaders were so hostile to him

- Where did he go at this time?** To the seashore

V8 – They even came from Tyre and Sidon (not part of the Jewish nation) – in other words, Gentiles!

- An early indication that the gospel was going to be for all people, not just for the Jews
- Who was the first true Gentile to be converted to Christ?** Cornelius (*Acts 10*)

V 9 – What did Jesus ask of his disciples? That a boat should be standing ready for him
-Why? So that he could preach from the boat

V 10 – What were the sick people doing? Just trying to touch him and be healed
-Remember *Mark 5.28* – the woman with the issue of blood was healed by touching the garments of Jesus

V 11 – The reaction of Christ to the demons? Not to reveal his identity
-Why? Because the crowds would try to make him a political king, which he did not want

Mark 3.13-19

V 13 – What a beautiful verse – he called them, and they came to him
-No-one can force the gospel on someone else, and they could not be forced to be apostles

V 14 – Jesus began by appointing twelve men to be apostles – they would carry on after he was gone
-It is always good even in church work today to be training others to take our place
-The work of the church should go on, even with the death of a key person
-It should be like pulling your hand out of a bucket of water; the water fills in the empty space

V 15 – What kind of power would the twelve have? Authority even over demons
-Notice that Judas had that power, but he fell away
-This disproves the "Once Saved Always Saved" doctrine that most evangelical churches teach

V 16 – What was named first? Simon Peter

V 17 – Who was next? James and John (brothers) - their nickname: Sons of Thunder
-**What does this tell us about their personalities?** A little wild to begin with, but that energy was channeled into the gospel at the proper time

V 18 – Other apostles are listed

V 19 – The last Apostle to be named? Judas
-Notice that the gospel of Mark was written after the life of Christ was over (seen in this verse)
-Those who hold to the "Matthew, Mark, Luke, John theory" are wrong – If the four gospels were not a part of the New Testament, then why was the gospel of Mark even written?

Children's poem to remember the Apostles:

Jesus called them one by one,
Peter, Andrew, James, and John,
Next, came Phillip, Thomas too,
Matthew and Bartholomew.

James the one they called the Less,
Simon also Thaddeus,
Twelfth apostle Judas made,
Jesus was by him betrayed.

Matthias then took Judas' place

To preach to men of every race,
Paul three preaching trips did make,
And went to Rome for Jesus' sake.

Mark 3.20-27

V 20 – What kind of crowds were following Jesus? Huge - he couldn't eat a meal without crowds of people around him

- The common people were thirsting for the truth about God
- The Pharisees had turned God's message into a lot of traditions and hypocrisy

V 21 – Who were "his own people"? Probably his mother and brothers

- What did they think about Jesus?** He had lost his mind

V 22 – Why would the scribes go "down" from Jerusalem to Galilee? Downhill (even though it was north) – for example, New England is "down east" from New York

- According to them, where was he getting his power?** From Satan

V 23 – How did Jesus try to explain things here? By parables

- What question did Jesus ask his apostles?** How could he cast out Satan by the power of Satan?

V 24 – This verse is the basis of a famous statement made by Abraham Lincoln in his "House Divided" Speech given on June 17, 1858, at the Illinois State Capitol in Springfield; he said:

A house divided against itself cannot stand. I believe this government cannot endure, permanently, half slave and half free. I do not expect the Union to be dissolved — I do not expect the house to fall — but I do expect it will cease to be divided. It will become all one thing or all the other. Either the opponents of slavery will arrest the further spread of it, and place it where the public mind shall rest in the belief that it is in the course of ultimate extinction; or its advocates will push it forward, till it shall become lawful in all the States, old as well as new — North as well as South. So true, even a congregation cannot stand if there is a division in it

V 25 – Same message

V 26 – What would destroy Satan? If he fights against himself

V 27 – Before someone is robbed, what must be done? He must be bound

- Message: Satan would be bound (remember *Revelation 20*)

Mark 3.28-30

V 28 – What kind of sins could be forgiven? All sins

V 29 – But what kind of sin could not be forgiven? Blasphemy against the Holy Spirit

- What had these Pharisees done to commit the unpardonable sin?** They had said that what Jesus did was by the power of Satan, not the power of God
- They did not believe what Jesus had done through the power of the Holy Spirit
- What is our message from the Holy Spirit today?** The Bible
- These Pharisees had not committed suicide, so suicide is not the unpardonable sin, as many

believe

-If a person is worried about having committed the unpardonable sin, then he has not committed it
-It is a sin in which there is no worry anymore – the person has become hardened to the work of the Holy Spirit

Mark 3.31-35

V 31 – **Who came to see Jesus?** His mother and his brothers

-*Luke 14.26* – This doesn't mean that we are to hate our relatives, but that the kingdom of God is to come first in our lives

V 32 – **What did the crowd say to Jesus?** That his mother and brothers were outside looking for him

V 33 – A rhetorical question

-Our spiritual relatives are more important than our blood relatives

V 34 – **Who were the relatives of Jesus?** His faithful disciples

V 35 – Literally, whoever does the will of God

-What a powerful chapter in the Bible!

Revised 2012-12-25