

Mark Chapter 3

V: 1 Entering again into the synagogue; the same one in Capernaum.

V: 2 The religious leaders didn't go to Synagogue to worship God, they apparently went to check on Jesus, possibly to entrap him – catch Him healing on the Sabbath.

- The Pharisees questioned many things about the miracles Jesus did, but not His ability to do them.

John 3:2 “The same came to Jesus by night, and said unto Him, Rabbi, we know that thou art a teacher come from God: for no man can do these miracles that thou doest, except God be with Him.”

John 9:16 “Therefore some of the Pharisees said, this man is not of God, because He keepeth not the Sabbath day. Others said, How can a man that is a sinner do such miracles? And there was a division among them.”

V: 3 Jesus could have healed the man's hand before He set foot into the synagogue, Jesus could have done it subtly.

- Jesus had the man stand forth so that there would be no doubt who did the healing because He was making a point.
- Jesus was challenging their interpretation of the Sabbath and their traditions, not the Law itself.

V: 4 To heal a man with a withered hand would be good.

- Not to heal a man with a withered hand when you had the ability to do so would be bad.
- People are born every day, and they die every day – each causes others to work, their rules didn't make sense.
- So is it lawful to do good or to do evil? *“To save life, or to kill?”*.
- He knew their thoughts and their plans! “I know what you're thinking...”
- A very logical question and basically Jesus had them – which is why they wouldn't answer Him.

V: 5 Jesus looked around at all of them:

“Anger” (G3709). orge, or-gay'; violent passion (ire, or [justifiable] abhorrence); by implication anger, indignation, vengeance, wrath.

- “Grieved” (G4818). sullupeo, sool-loop-eh'-o; to afflict jointly, to be afflicted for another, sorrow at (on account of) some one:--be grieved.
- Why? Because of the hardness of their hearts.
- Jesus didn't just supernaturally heal the man – He told the man to stretch out his hand.
- Jesus told the man to do something that was impossible. The man could have explained why he couldn't stretch out his arm, or argued with Jesus.
- This man had a choice to make. Jesus' commandments are His empowerments.
- As the man heard the command, he willed to obey it – and the moment he willed to obey, he found the power or the enablement to do so – and his hand stretched out restored.

Philippians 4:13 “I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me.”

V: 6 The Pharisees took counsel with the *Herodians* how they might destroy Jesus.

- The conservative religious leaders joined forces with the political leaders: and had a tea party....
- These are two groups that are not friendly towards each other. The *Herodians* (*secular Jews, politicians, publicans*) were friends with Rome, working in concert with Rome – the Pharisees felt the same way about the *Herodians* as the *publicans* and here they are taking counsel together.
- Why the Herodians? Well, it worked with John the Baptist...

Matthew 12:30 “He that is not with Me is against Me; and he that gathereth not with Me scattereth abroad.”

- The Scribes and the Pharisees were pretty well hung up on the 3rd commandment about the Sabbath, or at least their interpretation of it. What about the 6th commandment “thou shalt not kill” or commit murder?

James 2:10 “For whosoever shall keep the whole law, and yet offend in one point, he is guilty of all.”

- In the last chapter the religious leaders took exception to Jesus' disciples eating the grain from the field on the Sabbath, not fasting, etc. We'll find that their animosity steadily increases right up to the crucifixion.
- Jesus healed people, He taught the Word of God, He preached the kingdom of Heaven – and this angered the Pharisees, the Sadducees, the Scribes – the religious establishment because it was a threat to their prosperity and influence over the people.

John 11:48 “If we let Him thus alone, all men will believe on Him: and the Romans shall come and take away both our place and nation.”

Matthew 27:18 “For he knew that for envy they had delivered Him.”

- The issues were finances and power, control.
 1. There has been a steady and systematic removal of God and Biblical values from our government.
 2. At the same time there has been a dramatic increase of governmental power and dependence upon the government for basic things in our country.
 3. 1 out of 7 persons in our nation is receiving food stamps, 1 out of 5 is on some type of government subsistence. The government is the largest employer in our nation. Our largest banks and our largest manufacturers are government controlled (GM).
 4. That is a lot of money and power rolled up into one entity.
 5. In their eyes Jesus is just as big a threat today as He was to the religious establishment in 32 Ad.

V: 7-8 “But Jesus withdrew Himself” In context this almost seems like there was an immediate threat.

- Jesus withdrew Himself away from His antagonists to the sea. He didn't intentionally remain in harms way.
- A great multitude then followed Him from: Galilee, Judea, Jerusalem, Idumaea, and beyond Jordan, from the area of Tyre & Sidon.
- This is a very large geographic area, this would be a very prominent following.

V: 9-10 This is also a testimony to the great need represented amongst the people for healing.

- Jesus was being crowded so much that He needed to have a boat to teach without being pushed into the water.

V: 11-12 Un-clean / demonic spirits recognized Jesus immediately and humbled themselves, proclaiming that Jesus is the Son of God.

- Jesus would not allow them to make Him known – it was not yet His time.

V: 13-15 The calling of the 12 Apostles out of the many disciples that were following Him.

“whom He would” – meaning He chose.

Later Jesus would say:

John 15:16 “You have not chosen Me, but I have chosen you, and ordained you, that ye should go and bring forth fruit, and that your fruit should remain: that whatsoever ye shall ask of the Father in My name, He may give it you.”

- Why did he call them, and ordain them?
- That He might send them forth to preach and to heal, and to cast out demons – all the things that He was doing.

V: 16-19 Simon who’s name was changed to Peter, Cephas, Petros as opposed to Petra (Matthew 16:17-18)

1. Simon / Peter
2. James the son of Zebedee.
3. John, James’s brother. Sons of thunder / boanerges.
4. Andrew – brother of Simon Peter, disciple of John the Baptist. (Evangelist)
5. Philip
6. Bartholomew / Nathaniel – in whom there is no guile.
7. Matthew / Levi
8. Thomas
9. James the son of Alphaeus (as opposed to Zebedee), also “James the less.”
10. Thaddaeus, also called Judas, or Judas not Isacriot.
11. Simon the Canaanite, the zealot.
12. Judas Iscariot, who betrayed Jesus.

- They all went into a house, a house they generally stayed at. Peter & Andrew’s house on the shore of the Galilee.

V: 20 They were so busy ministering to people they didn’t even have time to eat.

V: 21 His friends though Jesus was losing it, but they weren’t seeing it from Jesus’ perspective.

John 4:34 “Jesus saith unto them, My meat is to do the will of Him that sent Me, and to finish His work.”

- “Crazy Love” – “leaving the PD: “you’re insane!” – You’re going to be a missionary where? – “you’re nuts”

V: 22 The scribes had already decided that Jesus was not the Messiah, but they were faced with the undeniable facts of His healing so many and driving out demons.

- Matthew’s Gospel (**Matthew 9:34**) explains that this exchange was prompted by Jesus healing a man, driving out the demons that had kept him blind and mute.
- They couldn’t just pas it off, He was exercising divine power over demons which was un-deniable – so they attributed it to “Beelzebub” – the lord of the flies, Satan.

V: 23-27 Jesus points out the foolishness of their statement, Satan casting out Satan? Satan doesn’t work against himself.

- No man can enter into a strong man’s house unless he first bind up the “strong man”.
- In this illustration Satan is the strong man, and Jesus is describing and demonstrating that His power is greater than that of Satan’s.
- Jesus has the power to bind of the forces of darkness and to spoil Satan’s house.

V: 28-29 Blasphemy of the Holy Spirit, that final rejection of Jesus as Lord.

“... all sins shall be forgiven unto the sons of men...”

- Christ died for the sins of the world.

Isaiah 53:6 “... and the Lord hath laid on Him the iniquity of us all.”

1 John 2:2 “And He is the propitiation for our sins: and not for ours only, but also for the sins of the whole world.”

- Those unfortunate, rebellious souls who will be standing before the Great White Throne of judgment as described in Revelation chapter 20 – those whose names are not written in the Lamb’s book of life will not be held to answer for all their petty sins.
- Jesus died for those sins, all those sins have been forgiven the sons of men – except the sin of blasphemy of the Holy Spirit, the sin of rejecting Jesus Christ.

- Jesus is God's only provision for sin.

John 14:6 “Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father but by Me.”

V: 30 “Because they said...”

- Jesus raised the issue of “blasphemy of the Holy Spirit” because that is what they were doing. Disbelieving the message of the Holy Spirit through Jesus; ascribing the good things done by Jesus as having been done through the power of Satan.
- They hadn't actually committed the unpardonable sin, but they were certainly in that process, which isn't complete until that final rejection of Jesus by either hardening their hearts or dying apart from Jesus.
- They were certainly getting close, they were looking at indisputable evidence and still rejecting Jesus as the Messiah.

That day would eventually come:

John 12:37-40 ³⁷“But though He had done so many miracles before them, yet they believed not on Him: ³⁸That the saying of Isaiah the prophet might be fulfilled, which he spake, Lord, who hath believed our report? And to whom hath the arm of the Lord been revealed? ³⁹Therefore they could not believe, because that Isaiah said again, ⁴⁰He hath blinded their eyes, and hardened their heart; that they should not see with their eyes, nor understand with their heart, and be converted, and I should heal them.”

We need to remember:

John 3:17-18 ¹⁷“For God sent not His Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through Him might be saved. ¹⁸He that believeth on Him is not condemned: but he that believeth not is condemned already, because he hath not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God.”

Paul tells us:

Romans 3:23 “For all have sinned, and fallen short of the glory of God.”

Romans 6:23 “For the wages of sin is death...”

- We all live under a death sentence – but God offers us a pardon through Jesus

Romans 6:23b “... but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.”

V: 31 Why did Jesus' mother and brothers show up all of a sudden? V: 21.

- It is commonly accepted that Jesus had a mother; Mary being described as the virgin who by the power of the Holy Spirit, conceived and gave birth to Jesus.

- What was not commonly accepted was that Jesus had other ½ siblings, in other words that Mary was not a “perpetual virgin” as is taught by the Roman Catholic Church.
- Two of the writers of the New Testament, James and Jude were ½ brothers of Jesus.
- This passage and the parallel passages in the other Gospels attest to the fact that Mary while a good woman, a blessed woman, was not a perpetual virgin.

Matthew 13:55-56 ⁵⁵“Is not this the carpenter’s son? Is not His mother called Mary? And His brethren, James, and Joses, and Simon, and Judas? ⁵⁶And His sisters, are they not all with us? Whence then hath this man all these things?”

V: 32-35 At this point if you’re looking for Mary to make intercession for you these verses wouldn’t be too encouraging – that is because there is only one intercessor for our soul – Jesus.

1 Timothy 2:5 “For there is one God, and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus.”

- When Jesus asked this question “who is my mother, or my brethren?” He looked about him at His disciples and followers and said that they were his mother and brethren – His family.
- What Jesus was doing was redefining family as being in a sense “church family” those who were like minded.
- We all have blood relatives that we’ve grown up with or lived our lives with, but it is those who share the same love for Jesus that we’re closest to – and often times that crosses family lines.

Amos 3:3 “How can two walk together unless they be agreed?”

- Jesus also made it known that we can’t engage in a personal relationship with Him – being “family” apart from “doing the will of God”.
- Doing the will of God was the determining factor in having a personal relationship with Jesus.

John 6:29 ²⁸“Then said they unto Him, what shall we do, that we might work the works of God? ²⁹Jesus answered and said unto them, this is the work of God, that ye believe on Him whom He hath sent.”