

THE GOSPEL OF
MARK®
servant **KING**

CHAPTER 3
THE TWELVE DISCIPLES

This chapter continues the Sabbath Day controversy and opposition that will lead to a final break with the religious leaders and eventually to Jesus's death and resurrection. In this chapter, we also see Mark's continued focus on the multitudes coming to Jesus for healings and deliverance.

MEMORY VERSE

So when He looked around at them with anger, being grieved by the hardness of their hearts, He said to the man, 'Stretch out your hand.' And he stretched it out and it was restored as whole as the other. Mark 3:5

Read Mark 3 thoughtfully in prayer. Concentrate on Jesus. What new thoughts come to your mind? Perhaps a new attribute of character in the midst of hatred and opposition that speaks to you?

CONTINUED SABBATH DAY CONTROVERSY

1. The synagogue referred to in Mark 3:1 is probably in Capernaum. What were the Pharisees hoping to catch Jesus doing, and what were their intentions (vv.1-2)?
2. Jesus knew their thoughts (Luke 6:8) and in Mark 3:3, He takes action. What question did He ask them and what was their response (v.4)?

3. What grieved Jesus and caused him to look at them in anger (v.5)? Read Luke 13:14; describe the “hardness of heart” demonstrated in this verse.

DID YOU KNOW?

Our Lord never became angry at the publicans and sinners, but He did express anger toward the self-righteous Pharisees (Matthew 23).

Warren Wiersbe

“Dr. Graham Scroggie notes that the word for “anger” here is in the aorist tense in the Greek and it carries the sense of momentary anger. The Greek word for grieve here is used in the present tense in the sense of continuing grief. Jesus carried with Him the awful grief of the hardness of their hearts.”

J. Vernon McGee

4. The Pharisees were so incensed with this healing they formed an alliance with the Herodians. What were they beginning to plan (v.6)? (Cross reference: Luke 6:10; Matthew 12:14.)

”The Herodians were not a religious party; they were a group of Jews who were sympathetic to King Herod and supported his rule. Most of the Jews despised Herod and obeyed his laws reluctantly, so it is surprising that the Pharisees, who were strict Jews, would join themselves with these disloyal politicians. But it was their common enemy, Jesus, that brought the two groups together.”

Pastor Chuck Smith

5. God knows the condition of our hearts and our motives. The Pharisees were so prideful and self-righteous valuing their position in the community for personal gain, so much so, that they lost sight of their goal as leaders to point people to Jesus. Their hearts became hard. How can we protect our hearts from becoming hard? How do we flatter Jesus with our lips while our hearts are far from Him?

6. Using a map, look up the mileage and geography from the regions listed in Mark 1:7-8. What were some of the distances and challenges to get to the Capernaum region on the Sea of Galilee?

7. Because of this united opposition, what was Jesus forced to do (v.9)? What does this show us about the humanity of Jesus?

8. Consider the great need of the multitudes; what were their sufferings and what was their hope (vv.10-11)?

9. What did the unclean spirits do and cry out whenever they saw Jesus? What did He firmly warn them (vv.11-12)?

“These crowds were dangerous to His (Jesus) cause, of course, because they were not spiritually motivated, and the authorities could cause Jesus of leading a popular revolt against the Romans. Yet Jesus received the people, healed the sick and delivered the demonized.” *Warren Wiersbe*

JESUS CHOOSES THE TWELVE DISCIPLES

10. In the midst of all of this activity going on around Him, what does Luke 6:12; Mark 3:13a tell us what was Jesus’s priority? For how long?

11. After spending all night in prayer, what was Jesus’s next step? “And _____ to Him those He Himself _____. And they _____ to Him (v.13).”

12. What two powers did Jesus give to His disciples, and what did He commission them to do (vv.14-15)? (Also see Luke 9:1-2.)

13. Consider how these same needs are in our world today. How does God use sickness and hardship to bring people to Himself to show them their need for salvation? What is our role in this?

14. Name the twelve chosen by Jesus to be His disciples. What thought stands out to you as you read over this list of men who would eventually change the world (vv.16-19)? (Also see Luke 6:13-16.)

Jesus had many disciples, but he chose only twelve to be His apostles. “Luke tells us that Jesus gave these twelve a special name “apostles.” A “disciple” is one who learns by doing; our modern equivalent might be an “apprentice.” An “apostle” is one who is sent on official service with a commission. Jesus had many disciples but only twelve apostles. His special “ambassadors.” *Warren Wiersbe*

OPPOSITION FROM FAMILY AND SCRIBES’ ACCUSATIONS

15. Why couldn’t Jesus and His disciples eat bread (v.20)? (Also see Mark 6:31 for help.)
16. With the crowds pressing in on Jesus, what had Jesus’s own people heard about Him that raised the concerns of his family? How did they at this time miss the point of Jesus ministry (vv.20-21)? (Also see Mark 3:31; 6:3.)

PERSONAL

How have you experienced being misunderstood in your relationship with Jesus? How does it reassure you that Jesus went through the same struggle?

17. The scribes from Jerusalem would have had great influence over the local religious leaders. What was their accusation in verse 22 and how did this play into their evil plot to destroy Jesus?
18. Jesus uses a parable in verses 23-27 to refute their accusation. Jesus asks “How can Satan cast out Satan (v.23)?” Read Matthew 12:27-28, 35 and Daniel 2:44. What is Jesus exposing about the hearts of these scribes and pointing out to them about the Kingdom of God?

<p>DID YOU KNOW? Beelzebub is another the name for the devil that means “master of the house.”</p>

“A parable is a story that uses a familiar scene to explain a spiritual truth (NLT Life Application Study Bible). Warren Wiersbe explains it as a picture that arrests our attention and arouses our interests.”

Warren Wiersbe

19. What did Jesus assuredly promise to the sons of men (v.28)?

20. What does one have to do to blaspheme the Holy Spirit? What are the consequences of one who blasphemes against the Holy Spirit (vv.29-30)?

JESUS DESCRIBES HIS TRUE FAMILY

21. Jesus used this visit from His family to teach a spiritual lesson to them and to the crowd that surrounded Him. What question did He ask, and how did Jesus answer His own question (vv.33-35)?

22. Do Jesus’s words seem unkind and unloving to you? How does this describe “counting the cost” to follow Jesus?

DID YOU KNOW?

Deliberate ongoing rejection of the work of the Holy Spirit is blasphemy because it is rejecting God Himself. The religious leaders accused Jesus of blasphemy, but ironically, they were the guilty ones when they looked at Jesus in the face and accused Him of being possessed by Satan (NLT Life Application Study Bible).

Our Lord was not suggesting that we ignore or abandon our families in order to serve God but only that we put God’s will above everything else in life. Our love for God should be so great that our love for family would seem hateful in comparison (Luke 14:26). *Warren Wiersbe*

DWELL ON THIS

This Spiritual birth is not something we can accomplish on our own. We have to turn to Jesus and accept Him as our Savior and our Father. It is all a work of God’s grace; all we can do is believe and receive. Do you believe? Have you received? Do you belong to the family of God? John 1:12 “but as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, to those who believe in His name.

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