

Study of Mark – Lesson 06

Mark 3: 1-12 Jesus Heals on the Sabbath

3¹ Another time / Jesus went into the synagogue, / and a man with a shriveled hand was there. /² Some of them were looking for a reason / to accuse Jesus, / so they watched him closely / to see if he would heal him on the Sabbath. /³ Jesus said to the man / with the shriveled hand, / “Stand up in front of everyone.”

4 Then Jesus asked them, / “Which is lawful on the Sabbath: / to do good / or to do evil, / to save life / or to kill?” / But they remained silent.

5 He looked around at them in anger /and, / deeply distressed at their stubborn hearts, / said to the man, / “Stretch out your hand.” / He stretched it out, / and



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his hand was completely restored. / ⁶ Then the Pharisees went out / and began to plot with the Herodians / how they might kill Jesus.

⁷ Jesus withdrew with his disciples to the lake, / and a large crowd from Galilee followed. / ⁸ When they heard about all he was doing, / many people came to him / from Judea, / Jerusalem, / Idumea, / and the regions across the Jordan / and around Tyre and Sidon. / ⁹ Because of the crowd / he told his disciples to have a small boat ready for him, / to keep the people from crowding him. / ¹⁰ For he had healed many, / so that those with diseases / were pushing forward to touch him. /

¹¹ Whenever the impure spirits saw him, / they fell down before him / and cried out, / “You are the Son of God.” / ¹² But he gave them strict orders / not to tell others about him.

Vocabulary

1. **Shriveled:** Withered. Smaller with little muscle left in them. Useless.
2. **To accuse:** Confront, blame, find fault with.
3. **Stubborn:** Overly persistent. Obstinate. Totally unwilling to be flexible or to change.
4. **Herodians:** People loyal to King Herod Antipas.
5. **Strict orders:** Precise and absolute instructions

Questions

1. Why do you think Jesus healed the man's hand on the Sabbath?
2. Were the teachers of the law trying to do good or do evil?
3. Why would the Pharisees want to see Jesus killed?
4. Who are the Herodians?
5. Jesus was obviously a healer. Why did people come to him instead of to other teachers?
6. Why would Jesus leave the synagogues?

Notes

1. Jesus in the synagogue
 - Crucial incident in the life (coming death) of Jesus
 - Orthodox leaders of Judaism were watching and questioning Jesus
 - Duty of Sanhedrin, the law and rule keepers of Orthodox Judaism, to deal with anyone who was likely to mislead the people and take them off the path they set forth.
 - Not in the synagogue to worship, but to condemn and check up on.
2. Strict laws against healing on the Sabbath. Attitude of Sanhedrin was rigid and unbending.
 - Help could only be given if a life was at stake. A mother could give birth, but a soldier could not fight. A broken arm could wait.

3. Legend of the man with the withered hand

- A Stonemason whose hand was badly injured. Muscles extremely weakened. Everyone knew him.
- Jesus wanted all to see this man physically healed.
- Jesus was actually asking for trouble.

4. Jesus asked: *Is it lawful to save a life or to kill it?* Jesus knew they were planning to kill him for his ability to change their world. He was definitely a threat to the status quo.

5. A Clash of Two Ideas of Religion

- Pharisee religion was *ritual*. Obey the rules and regulations. Go to Temple on feast days; keep the commandments and all the oral law.
- Jesus believed in *service, love of God and love of men. Jesus people are to answer the cry of human need.*

6. Jesus had to leave to avoid conflict. His time to die had not yet come.

- People came from all over to listen to Jesus.
- Crowds were so large it became dangerous for Jesus and others. The sick crowded and pushed toward him to be healed.
- He got a boat and spoke from it to the people
- *Son of God* was not an uncommon title, but a special one. The kings were often called *son of God*.