

MARK CHAPTER 3 – “HEALING ON THE SABBATH; A GREAT MULTITUDE FOLLOWS JESUS; THE TWELVE APOSTLES; A HOUSE DIVIDED CANNOT STAND; THE UNPARDONABLE SIN; JESUS’ MOTHER AND BROTHERS SEND FOR HIM

OBSERVATION

Monday 7:00pm, H 105 (1st floor, High School--foot of stairs, behind the gym, by the vending machine area), Tuesday 7:00am, Family, Room, CCCM – **Phil Twente, cell #714 425 9221; email – ptwente@gmail.com** For past studies, audio plus notes, go to: <http://www.missioncalvary.com/> Click on “Bible Studies” on the left column. References include commentaries by numerous pastor/teachers.

INTERPRETATION

APPLICATION

HEALING ON THE SABBATH:

Mar 3:1 And He entered the synagogue again, and a man was there who had a withered hand.

Mar 3:2 So they watched Him closely, whether He would heal him on the Sabbath, so that they might accuse Him.

Mar 3:3 And He said to the man who had the withered hand, "Step forward."

Mar 3:4 Then He said to them, "Is it lawful on the Sabbath to do good or to do evil, to save life or to kill?" But they kept silent.

Mar 3:5 And when He had 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 his hand was restored as whole as the other.

Mar 3:6 Then the Pharisees went out and immediately plotted with the Herodians against Him, how they might destroy Him.

A GREAT MULTITUDE FOLLOWS JESUS:

Mar 3:7 But Jesus withdrew with His disciples to the sea. And a great multitude from Galilee followed Him, and from Judea

Mar 3:8 and Jerusalem and Idumea and beyond the Jordan; and those from Tyre and Sidon, a great multitude, when they heard how many things He was doing, came to Him.

Mar 3:9 So He told His disciples that a small boat should be kept ready for Him because of the multitude, lest they should crush Him.

Mar 3:10 For He healed many, so that as many as had afflictions pressed about Him to touch Him.

Mar 3:11 And the unclean spirits, whenever they saw Him, fell down before Him and cried out, saying, "You are the Son of God."

Mar 3:12 But He sternly warned them that they should not make Him known.

vs. 1&2 Knowing it was Jesus’ manner to seek out those in need, the Pharisees kept a close eye on the man with the paralyzed hand for the sole purpose of seeing if Jesus would break their law by healing him on the Sabbath. Jesus is not only teaching them, but He is trampling a bit on their traditions. - **Application: Jesus’s always on the lookout for the greatest need**

vs. 3&4 “People die every day. Therefore, if evil and death don’t take a rest, why should goodness and life cease on the Sabbath day? Your rules and regulations don’t make sense,” Jesus said to the Pharisees. **But they kept silent.** The Pharisees were learning not to argue with Jesus

v. 5 v. “Stretch out your hand” – As the man with the paralyzed hand stretched it forth, he was able to do what the Lord had commanded him to do **because God’s commandments are always God’s enabling.** In commanding him to stretch forth his hand, He is commanding the man to do something which is totally impossible for him to do, **an impossible command.** Now, the man has a choice. **Either to argue** with the command of Jesus and to tell Jesus all of the reasons why he could not stretch forth his hand. **Or he could will to obey Jesus’ command.** Now there’s important lessons for us here. Because Jesus gives us commands concerning the blight or the weakness in our lives, that withered area of your life. **Maybe it’s a weakness, a penchant towards a particular sin.** And the Lord says to you, Be victorious in that area of your life, and unfortunately, so many times, **we choose to tell the Lord why we can’t.** How many times have we tried, and how weak we are, and **we’re prone to just give Him all the excuses why we can’t do it.** Whereas **if we would will to obey, we would discover that immediately, all that was necessary to obey would be given to us.** We so often feel that the Lord is not interested in us because of our great need, because of that blighted area in our life, because of that weakness that we have, we feel the Lord is just tired of me, He’s tired of trying to help me, He’s not interested in me because I have failed and I have this weakness and I have this blighted area in my life. **But you are the one that He is most attracted to because He came to seek and to save those who are lost, to help those who are weak, to heal.** - **Application: Jesus’ anger & impossible commands**
v. 6 The Pharisees and Herodians had been enemies for years. But now the Pharisees, a religious group, and the Herodians, a political party, found themselves united in their opposition to Jesus. This was as unlikely as seeing the Pro-Choice and Pro-Life movements saying, “Let’s join forces.”
v. 7-12 Why would Jesus forbid the “free advertising” of the unclean spirits? I believe part of the answer lies in the fact that demonic spirits are not only called unclean spirits, but lying spirits (1 Kings 22:22; 2 Chronicles 18:21). And of what use is the word of a liar? **Application: Beware of popularity! Identifying with the wrong reason. Opposition**

Mark Chapter 3 – Before we will see Jesus’ work blessed in verses 4–7, as chapter 3 opens, we see a continuation of His work belittled by the scribes.

In verses 1-6, we see the continuation issue of Jesus coming against their traditions concerning the Sabbath. They thought He was breaking the Law, but He was teaching them that He was not breaking the law, but correcting their erroneous traditions, which were keeping people really from fully, freely and joyfully worshipping the Lord!

In vs. 7-12 we see the problems of popularity developing as Jesus is now attracting very large crowds. The **first popularity problem is that of incorrect reasoning by the crowd of Jesus’ coming.** They thought the primary purpose was the healing and doing miracles. We know however, that His primary purpose in coming was to save sinners! Preaching was a most important part of His ministry.

The second popularity problem given to us in vs. 11-12 is the reaction of unclean spirits. Mark tells us that when they saw Jesus they always identified him. Jesus invariably silenced them and cast them out. We can be sure of one thing -- these unclean spirits did not desire to advance the cause of Christ by their witness. They told the truth, but they did so because they knew **it would hurt the cause of Jesus, not help it.** They were out to **mislead people about Christ.** So something about the way they told this, though it was true, was nevertheless misleading, and that is what our Lord rejected. **The third popularity problem** is given to us beginning in verse 20 and continuing to the end of the chapter. Because of the **intensity of the ministry, Jesus’ own family thought “He is out of His mind”!** Additionally because of the popularity and the evidences of Jesus’ healing and other miraculous power, the scribes **falsely attributed Jesus’s power of that of the Devil.**

v. 5 Anger - Anger, properly reacted upon, is good, necessary and righteous. But our reaction often is over the wrong reasons for our getting angry. If you see something bad – something against the Lord or His Word? **There is a time to get angry! It’s a part of love! What do you get mad about?** The right things or unimportant things! Those coming against you or those coming against Jesus. **Nothing seemed to disturb Him, except religious blindness. It angered Jesus then, I believe it angers Jesus today.**

v. 7 Do you withdrawn from fighting or do you enjoy picking one on continuing a fight?

v. 8 What is the greatest communication system in the world?

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THE TWELVE APOSTLES:

Mar 3:13 And He went up on the mountain and called to Him those He Himself wanted. And they came to Him.

Mar 3:14 Then He appointed twelve, that they might be with Him and that He might send them out to preach,

Mar 3:15 and to have power to heal sicknesses and to cast out demons:

Mar 3:16 Simon, to whom He gave the name Peter:

Mar 3:17 James the son of Zebedee and John the brother of James, to whom He gave the name Boanerges, that is, "Sons of Thunder";

Mar 3:18 Andrew, Philip, Bartholomew, Matthew, Thomas, James the son of Alphaeus, Thaddaeus, Simon the Cananite;

v. 13-14 The crowd was surrounding Him. Healing was flowing from Him. People were being touched and blessed by Him. And yet Jesus withdrew, no doubt following the directive of His Father.

v. 15 Matthew tells us **Jesus spent the night in prayer** before choosing His disciples. I used to think He did this to receive direction and confirmation from His Father in order that He might choose twelve men who would impact and influence the world most radically. But now I suspect He was praying, **“Father, keep Me from choosing those who seem successful outwardly”** because look who He chose:

v. 16 The confession of Peter that Jesus Christ is the Son of the living God. That is the foundation upon which the church is built. “No other foundation have we than that which is already laid,” Paul said, “which is Jesus Christ” (1 Corinthians 3:11). So you are Petros, little stone. Upon this Petra, I will build my church. So it was Jesus that called him.

v. 17 Jesus called James and John sons of thunder no doubt because of their violent tempers. Would you have chosen a couple of guys who wanted to blow people away and burn people up if your message was peace, grace, and love?

v.18 Andrew.. whenever you see Andrew he is always bringing people to Jesus. Good job. How about Matthew? Would you have wanted to spend three years with an IRS agent? and Thomas... Would you have included a man who would doubt you were even alive? and James ... James the son of Alphaeus is also called James the Less—not a very impressive description. and Thaddaeus, and Simon the Canaanite. Simon is also called the Zealot (Acts 1:13). The zealots were those who wanted to violently overthrow the Roman government. If your message was that your kingdom was not of this world, would you choose a political radical like Simon?

v. 13 Jesus doesn’t change. He still is calling those today.
Are you remembering that when you consider telling other about Him?

v. 14 If you were going to pick 12, who would you pick?

vs. 16-19 All the gospel lists start with Simon and end with Judas. Would Simon be the one you would have started with? It may have been 50 years before Peter would write his epistles!

James and John – sons of thunder? *Luk 9:54 ... "Lord, do You want us to command fire to come down from heaven and consume them, just as Elijah did?"* Arguing on which side they are going to sit on? **Bronto phonos – thunder voice**, in John’s latter years! “love one another”!!

Andrew - always bringing people to Jesus; the little boy to Jesus with the five loaves and the two fish; Peter to Jesus; when the Greeks came, it was Andrew who came to Jesus with the request. Good job.

Bartholomew - also named Nathaniel, and thus he was the one that Jesus said, Behold, an Israelite in which there is no guile., *Matthew (3:18)* wrote the gospel. He was a tax collector. *Thomas (3:18)*, The doubting skeptic, a man who didn’t pretend to know something he didn’t..

James the son of Alphaeus (3:18), Of this James, we don’t know anything. *Thaddaeus (3:18)*, He was also called Judas and in the last night with Jesus, said unto him, Lord, how is it that you will manifest yourself unto us, and not unto the world” James became known as “camel knees” – spending 8 hours per day praying! Simon the Cananite, the Zealot, the “dagger man”

Application - Choosing the 12 who would be His Apostles! Not on what they were, but what they would become.

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Mar 3:19 and Judas Iscariot, who also betrayed Him. And they went into a house.

A HOUSE DIVIDED CANNOT STAND

Mar 3:20 Then the multitude came together again, so that they could not so much as eat bread.

Mar 3:21 But when His own people heard about this, they went out to lay hold of Him, for they said, "He is out of His mind."

Mar 3:22 And the scribes who came down from Jerusalem said, "He has Beelzebub," and, "By the ruler of the demons He casts out demons."

Mar 3:23 So He called them to Himself and said to them in parables: "How can Satan cast out Satan?"

Mar 3:24 If a kingdom is divided against itself, that kingdom cannot stand.

Mar 3:25 And if a house is divided against itself, that house cannot stand.

Mar 3:26 And if Satan has risen up against himself, and is divided, he cannot stand, but has an end.

Mar 3:27 No one can enter a strong man's house and plunder his goods, unless he first binds the strong man. And then he will plunder his house.

v. 19 Would you have chosen Judas? More importantly, would you have called him “Friend” even as he betrayed you? (see Matthew 26:50). Yet with the exception of Judas, Jesus’ disciples became men who did indeed turn the world upside down because of His Spirit within them. This means that when Jesus chose you and me, He knew we would also be changed and eventually would be those who impact the world now and eternally. He chose us not because of who we are, but because of who He sees we can be. God picks winners. You might feel like a loser. Those around you might even call you a loser. But the fact that you were chosen by God, who sees the big picture, means you are a winner.

v. 20-21 After seeing Jesus’ work blessed, now we see it blasphemed. “He’s out of His mind,” said His friends. “He’s so busy preaching and teaching and healing that He’s not even eating.”

v. 22-26 Because the scribes had taken the position He is not the Messiah, they have to somehow explain how He could do this, cast out the demon and give the man sight and speech. And so they said, “He has Beelzebub.” He has the powers of darkness.

“To say I’m casting out demons by the power of demons is illogical,” said Jesus. “Why would Satan want to defeat himself?”

v. 27 Jesus likens Satan to a strong man who, if allowed, seeks to control our families, friends, neighbors, joy, health, and blessings. What must we do? Before we can wrest goods from Satan’s control, free people from his grasp, release resources, we must first bind the strong man. The binding of the strong man is done in prayer. Too often we rush in to rescue or reclaim without first binding Satan through prayer. We can do more than pray, but we can’t do anything until we pray. If you’re witnessing or serving without praying, you’re fighting a battle you’re sure to lose. The strong man must be bound. Prayer must be given priority.

Jesus picked what the disciples would be, not what they are. Is that not the same for you and for me? Be aware that Jesus never makes mistakes!!! Indeed that’s good news for you and for me!! “Hidden from the wise and revealed to babes!”

vs. 22-27 Notice the reaction to all the good things that Jesus is doing. His own, probably family, relatives, say that He’s lost His mind. The religious leaders who have been given the responsibility of presenting the truths about God, are saying (they could not deny His power and the miracles that He was doing) that He is filled with and empowered by the Devil! **What would you have thought, felt, if you were Jesus?**

Jesus was declaring that His power was greater than that of Satan’s. He had the power to bind the forces of darkness and then to spoil Satan’s house

The scribes were not yielding to the Spirit and became totally hard hearted! They were becoming dangerously close to blaspheming the Holy Spirit, and so Jesus warns them. Today our culture is becoming the same way – to reject those things of Jesus. To eliminate Jesus from all facets of our society.

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THE UNPARDONABLE SIN

Mar 3:28 "Assuredly, I say to you, all sins will be forgiven the sons of men, and whatever blasphemies they may utter;

Mar 3:29 but he who blasphemes against the Holy Spirit never has forgiveness, but is subject to eternal condemnation"—

Mar 3:30 because they said, "He has an unclean spirit."

JESUS’ MOTHER AND BROTHERS SEND FOR HIM

Mar 3:31 Then His brothers and His mother came, and standing outside they sent to Him, calling Him.

Mar 3:32 And a multitude was sitting around Him; and they said to Him, "Look, Your mother and Your brothers are outside seeking You."

Mar 3:33 But He answered them, saying, "Who is My mother, or My brothers?"

Mar 3:34 And He looked around in a circle at those who sat about Him, and said, "Here are My mother and My brothers!"

Mar 3:35 For whoever does the will of God is My brother and My sister and mother."

He Leadeth Me

*He leadeth me, O blessed thought! O words with heav’nly
comfort fraught! Whate’er I do, where’er I be
Still ’tis God’s hand that leadeth me.*

*Refrain: - He leadeth me, He leadeth me, By His own hand He
leadeth me; His faithful foll’wer I would be, For by His hand
He leadeth me.*

*Sometimes ’mid scenes of deepest gloom, Sometimes where
Eden’s bowers bloom, By waters still, o’er troubled sea,
Still ’tis His hand that leadeth me. (Refrain)*

*And when my task on earth is done, When by Thy grace the
vict’ry’s won, E’en death’s cold wave I will not flee,
Since God through Jordan leadeth me. (Refrain)*

v. 28-30 According to 1 John 2:2, Jesus died not only for our sins, but for the sins of the whole world. “All manner of sin shall be forgiven all men,” He said (see Matthew 12:31). Every sin committed by any man or woman has already been paid for and forgiven because of Calvary. When Jesus said, “It is finished,” the price was paid for all humanity. and only the sin of rejecting Jesus Christ will damn a person. You’ll never be held accountable for the lustful thought you had five weeks ago; for the lie you told ten minutes ago. But you will be held accountable if you blaspheme the Spirit. I find it interesting that Jesus addresses the subject of the blasphemy of the Spirit in conjunction with the accusations that He had an unclean spirit. But **eternal life is not something to be toyed with. It’s not something to take chances with. It’s something you want to be absolutely certain about without any question, you don’t want any uncertainty when you’re talking about eternal life. You want to make sure.**

v. 31-35 Chapter 3 has presented a new nation, no longer based upon the twelve tribes of Israel, but upon the twelve apostles; a new family; no longer comprised of Jesus’ biological mother and brothers, but of anyone who does the will of God. And in establishing a new nation, and a new family, Jesus opens the door to a whole new understanding of true religion.

vs. 28-29 All sins will be forgiven you except the rejection of Jesus Christ!!

It seems certain that **anyone greatly concerned about losing their salvation because of having blasphemed the Holy Spirit, shouldn’t be!**

There is forgiveness of all sins through Jesus Christ; are pardonable, with the exception of rejecting Jesus Christ totally, blaspheming the Holy Spirit.

We believers can grieve the Holy Spirit. We can pain Him!

We can quench His power!

Now Jesus said that “*God did not send Him into this world to condemn the world; but that the world through Him might be saved*” (John 3:17). That’s the purpose of His coming, to save you. And “*he that believeth is not condemned: but he that believeth not is condemned already*” (John 3:18). You’re already condemned. “*All have sinned*” (Romans 3:23), “*the wages of sin is death*” (Romans 6:23). The death sentence is already on you. It’s already been pronounced. But God has provided a way whereby you can be pardoned. For you to reject the pardon that God offers leaves no alternative. The judgment from which Jesus came to save you will be visited upon you. You’ll have to face the judgment of your sins because you’ve rejected God’s provision. Thus, “*he that believeth is not condemned: but he that believeth not is condemned already*” (John 3:18). It’s already there. “*And this is the condemnation, that light has come into the world, but men will not come to the light*” (John 3:19). That’s the whole issue. Your failure to come to Jesus Christ. And then Jesus tells us why you won’t come, because “*men loved darkness rather than the light, because their deeds are evil*” (John 3:19).

Application - The Unpardonable Sin – It’s meaning to you?

v. 31 Mat 13:55-56a *Is this not the carpenter’s son? Is not His mother called Mary? And His brothers James, Joses, Simon, and Judas? [56a] And His sisters, are they not all with us? Where then did this Man get all these things?”* So we see with four brothers and sisters, there would have been at least nine in the carpenter’s house!

v. 34 He calls those mother and brothers, who are of the same spirit, are closer than those who are related by blood! The one who does the will of God, enters into a relationship that is closer than any other human relationship!

Application - Primary importance of doing the will of God

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Summary of important concepts or applications in today’s study:

Jesus’s always on the lookout for the greatest need

Jesus’ anger

Jesus’ impossible commands

Beware of popularity! Identifying with the wrong reason. Dealing with the opposition which will arise.

Choosing the 12 who would be His Apostles! Not who they were, but what they would become.

The Unpardonable Sin

Primary importance of doing the will of God

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