

**22S40 Mark 3:1-12 (Part 5)**

Hello everyone. Thank you for joining me today @ the PUNLA Coffee Table. I hope everyone is doing well. Today we are continuing our study of the gospel according to Mark with Mark 3:1-12 (Part 6) Jesus heals on the Sabbath.

Before we start, we need to understand a little about this amazing book in the bible. Most historians believe Mark was the first written account of Jesus' life, ministry, death and resurrection. The identity of Mark is not known for sure, but most believe this is John Mark. John Mark is spoken of by Luke in Acts as the cousin of Barnabas, John Mark is mentioned in many other books on the New Testament. Many believe he spent time traveling with Peter, so it is thought that much of Mark's gospel is actually from the perspective of Peter. We also believe that John Mark knew Jesus. There are accounts that Jesus stayed at Mark's mother's home, there are also some unique story details in Mark that are not in either Matthew's or Luke's accounts. We will try to highlight some of these as we go through the stories in Mark.

I'm reading from the New American Standard version (NAS) today. But of course, you can use whatever translation you choose.

Let's read Mark 3:1-12 (NAS) *<sup>1</sup>He entered a synagogue again; and a man was there whose hand was withered. <sup>2</sup>And they were watching Him closely to see if He would heal him on the Sabbath, so that they might accuse Him. <sup>3</sup>He said to the man with the withered hand, "Get up and come forward!" <sup>4</sup>And He said to them, "Is it lawful to do good on the Sabbath or to do harm, to save a life or to kill?" But they kept silent. <sup>5</sup>After looking around at them with anger, grieved at their hardness of heart, He said to the man, "Stretch out your hand." And he stretched it out, and his hand was restored. <sup>6</sup>The Pharisees went out and immediately began conspiring with the Herodians against Him, as to how they might put Him to death. <sup>7</sup>Jesus withdrew to the sea with His disciples; and a large multitude from Galilee followed, and also from Judea, <sup>8</sup>and from Jerusalem, and from Idumea, and beyond the Jordan, and the vicinity of Tyre and Sidon, a great number of people heard about everything that He was doing and came to Him. <sup>9</sup>And He told His disciples to see that a boat would be ready for Him because of the masses, so that they would not crowd Him; <sup>10</sup>for He had healed many, with the result that all those who had diseases pushed in around Him in order to touch Him. <sup>11</sup>And whenever the unclean spirits saw Him, they would fall down before Him and shout, "You are the Son of God!" <sup>12</sup>And He strongly warned them not to reveal who He was.*

**Let's pray. Dear heavenly father, guide our discussion today such that your message is clear to each of us. As we read your words from Mark, help us see what Mark wants his readers to understand and why. I pray that you help me stay out of the way so your hope and peace can be shared with us. I pray this in your name Lord Jesus. Amen.**

Now, let's take a closer look at these verses, Mark 3:1-2 (NAS) *<sup>1</sup>He entered a synagogue again; and a man was there whose hand was withered. <sup>2</sup>And they were watching Him closely to see if He would heal him on the Sabbath, so that they might*

*accuse Him*. Presumably Jesus is still in Capernaum. He goes to the synagogue on the Sabbath again. The scribes and Pharisees are watching. They want to catch Jesus doing something wrong.

Then, Mark 3:3-4 (NAS) *<sup>3</sup>He said to the man with the withered hand, "Get up and come forward!" <sup>4</sup>And He said to them, "Is it lawful to do good on the Sabbath or to do harm, to save a life or to kill?"* Jesus exposes the heart of all people. It is so obvious to everyone watching that the Pharisee only care about finding a reason to accuse Jesus. They have no compassion for the man. Is it better to do good or evil. What a question.

Let's read on, Mark 3:5 (NAS) *But they kept silent. <sup>5</sup>After looking around at them with anger, grieved at their hardness of heart, He said to the man, "Stretch out your hand." And he stretched it out, and his hand was restored.* The Pharisees can't say anything. Jesus is disgusted, so he feels the man without touching him. Just stretch out your hand and as the man does it, he is healed. And what did the Pharisees do, were they in awe of Jesus, sadly no. Mark 3:6 (NAS) *<sup>6</sup>The Pharisees went out and immediately began conspiring with the Herodians against Him, as to how they might put Him to death.*

Now there is a break in the story and Mark begins a new story about Jesus in Mark 3:7-8 (NAS) *<sup>7</sup>Jesus withdrew to the sea with His disciples; and a large multitude from Galilee followed, and also from Judea, <sup>8</sup>and from Jerusalem, and from Idumea, and beyond the Jordan, and the vicinity of Tyre and Sidon, a great number of people heard about everything that He was doing and came to Him"*



Jesus withdraws but people from everywhere are following from north to south, people from all surrounding areas are following. Jesus is different than anyone who came before, and many many people knew it.

Then Mark continues in Mark 3:9-12 (NAS) *<sup>9</sup>And He told His disciples to see that a boat would be ready for Him because of the masses, so that they would not crowd Him; <sup>10</sup>for He had healed many, with the result that all those who had diseases pushed in around Him in order to touch Him. <sup>11</sup>And whenever the unclean spirits saw Him, they would fall down before Him and shout, "You are the Son of God!" <sup>12</sup>And He strongly warned them not to reveal who He was.*

People are coming from everywhere and being healed. Demons are being cast out and they know who Jesus really is. Jesus is the Son of God. I'm sure the people watching are yearning to see more. This Jesus is different.

Let's review.

- 1) Do Good or Do Evil? Jesus exposes the Pharisees for what they were. Hateful and without compassion. Is it better to do good or evil? Their thoughts were evil. Jesus was obviously doing good, and they hated Him for it.
- 2) People? Mark makes a point here. Lots of people are following Jesus now. From Galilee, Judea, Jerusalem, Tyre and Sidon and Idumea. Sidon is way up north and Idumea is way down south. Even people from Jerusalem are following. People from Jerusalem are following someone in Galilee. Don't forget the people for Judea and Jerusalem did not think very highly of Galileans. You hear this is other parts of the Bible.
- 3) Demons? The demons know. They know who Jesus is. They shutter at the sight of Jesus. God is there. You have to wonder what people thought when these demons kept speaking about Jesus.

**Let's Pray. Heavenly Father thank you for Bible. Help us to read and meditate on your words so we can hear the message you have for us. Help us to remember who you are Lord. You are our king, king of kings. You are our Lord, Lord over everyone. We can trust you, Lord. Help us to ask you for wisdom when we don't understand. I pray this in your Name Lord Jesus. Amen**

Let me leave you with this, Again the enemies of Jesus getting angry because Jesus is showing mercy to man. The demons know what is happening. But the scribes and Pharisees are mad. Jesus is unlike anyone that has ever lived. Nothing they have ever heard of or seen. Yet they don't get it. Despite the miracles, they don't see it. Despite the demons telling them plainly who Jesus is. They don't get it. This is kind of like us. Jesus either offends us or confuses us. But, what Jesus is trying to teach us is He knows the best way for us to live, right here and right now. Trust God. God is working around us and through us. Don't miss it.

Thank you for joining me for our study of the gospel of Mark. Please email me comments or feedback. And if you liked the message, please share the link with your friends. Until next time @ the PUNLA Coffee Table. God bless.