

MARK 3:1-6

REVIEW: INTRO

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THE SCENE:

- In this paragraph we see nothing of the disciples, hear or know nothing of the man healed other than his disability and healing.
- It is the Sabbath; Jesus is again being stalked by the Pharisees. He goes into the synagogue to teach and there is a man with a withered right hand.
- A disability which he was not born with. which is understood by the word.
- The Pharisees, in setting a trap, ask Jesus since it is the Sabbath what should be done with this man.
- Jesus tells the man to stand up and come into the midst of the synagogue.
- He then turns the question back on the Pharisees by giving an analogy of the situations by saying, "what man among you having one sheep and it falls into a pit on the Sabbath will not lift it out?"
- Is not a man worth more than a sheep.
- He continues, "Is it lawful on the Sabbath to do good or to do evil, to save life or to kill?"
- They kept silent.
- Jesus then commands the man with the withered hand to do what he could not do, "stretch out your hand."
- The man immediately does it and his hand is restored good as the other.
- The Pharisees go out filled with anger, jealousy and madness.
- They then make allegiance with the Herodians planning of how they might put Jesus to death.
- **The Herodians:** They were a irreligious and worldly political group. Made up of Jews who supported Herod, thus being viewed as traitors to the Jews. The Pharisees hated them and they hated the Pharisees.
- In their common hatred for Jesus they found common ground.
- The Pharisees desired their favor...
- Like Pilot and Herod reconciled and became friends at the trial of Jesus.
- VS. 6 is the first record of the Pharisees desire and planning to put Jesus to death. Compare **John 5:18**
- In this healing Jesus did not touch the man, nor commanded the hand to be healed, He did nothing direct other than to tell the man to stretch forth his hand.'
- How could they accuse Jesus of breaking the Sabbath when He did not lift a finger to heal.
- For the Pharisees to credit Him with the miracle would be to admit His Divinity. He willed it and so it was. (Gen. 1:1)

THE HEART OF THE PHARISEE:

- From the action of the Pharisees it was obvious they really cared nothing for the man with the useless hand.
- Nor did they value or appreciate the miracle, God ordained power of Christ. All they cared about was their own position in society.
- The Pharisees were so hardened they would rather a man suffer than be healed.
- Was it more sinful to restore a person to health on the Sabbath than to plot murder and feed hatred against Christ?
- He exposed their hearts and they hated Him for it. So they could answer Him nothing.
- They were driven by self-righteousness, pride and a hatred of Jesus and His consistent exposing of their sinful hearts.
- Now notice the contradiction of Vs 4 & vs. 6. the very heart of the Pharisees was exactly this as it is exposed in Vs. 6 they desired to withhold good and do evil, to kill and not give life.
- It is amazing to see how wicked the human nature and heart can be. These self-righteous, supposedly God fearing Pharisees had in their envious hearts the desire to trap and destroy Jesus, their long awaited Messiah.
- They stalked Him, watched and spied on Him hoping for the occasion to accuse Him.
 - **ACCUSE**: Vs. 2 to accuse formally before a legal tribunal. To bring a charge publically.
- For this they **WATCHED** Him: Meaning to watch even as a spy watches and relentlessly shadows a person while maintaining a distance, and aloofness, they were sideline observers.
- When did they do this? On their holy day the Sabbath, which they strove to keep holy,
- Where did they do this? in their holy place the synagogue where they would gather to hear God's word and to worship. What hypocrisy.
- We too are often watched by eyes looking to accuse us of our behavior. Let us live like Jesus, giving no occasion for the flesh, living above reproach.
- We brothers and sisters who live for Christ are a marked people.
- The world notices everything we do, our language, our dress, our appetites, our hidden idols, our self-control or lack thereof, our love for one another.
- And if a Christian falls into error the ungodly rejoice..
- Let us be watchful so not to give the enemies of Jesus a cause to blaspheme, boast, celebrate and thus justify their sin and dead hearts.

THE ANGER OF JESUS:

- Vs. 5, Jesus looked around at them with anger. He searched them out eye to eye.
- **Anger:** Wrath, indignation.
 - **Heb. 3:11:** So I swore in My wrath,
- He gazed at them with anger in His eyes and His face.
- We don't think often of Jesus having this emotion, but the scriptures are replete with the anger of God. It is part of His attributes and character.
- Our precious Savior had all the emotions every human was born with.
- We read that He marveled, grieved, wept, He rejoiced, He loved, and here He felt anger.
- The sin and wicked resistance of man toward God stir Him most deeply.
- Jesus twice went after the money changers for making His Father's house a place of commerce and thievery when it should be a house of prayer.
- God often expresses anger in both the Old Testament and the new.
- The anger of God is radically different than the sinful anger of man.
- We cannot paint God with a human brush.
- God's anger is a holy reaction in the heart of God against man's sin and unrighteousness and hardness of heart.
- Take notice that His anger was seasoned with grief, grief for their hardness.
- **Hardness:** to cover with a thick skin, a hardening. The process by which something becomes more and more like stone which results in intellectual blinding. It is a hard willful resistance of heart to the divine truth.
 - **Rom. 1:18**
- Here it also means a dullness of mental discernment, a dulled perception.
- Here the dullness is not necessarily limited to mental, but also moral and spiritual.
- Unholy anger is murderous, it kills. (The elders and the scribes with Stephen, Cain with Able)
- We are told in Eph. 4:26, be angry and sin not.
- He did not lose His temper.
- Anger, holy anger is always first directed at sin and not the sinner.

THE MAN:

- **Withered:** It refers to a loss of strength, to atrophy and the word was used of dead plants that have been dried up and wasted away.
- It was most likely this man had no physical power to stretch out his hand for it had no muscle as it had atrophied, yet at the command of Jesus he committed himself to obeying and set his heart to move his arm endeavoring to do so the healing came.
 - Let us obey when Jesus commands.
- Whatever the man's desperate condition was, when Jesus told him to stretch forth his withered hand he obeyed immediately and was healed. (5)
- What did this man do for a living before he lost the use of his hand?
- Did he have a family? How did he make a living?

THE HEART OF JESUS:

- In these verses, Jesus echoes by His actions the heart of God as expressed in **Isa. 1:11-17**.
- And also as mentioned in two previous sections. Hos. 6:6 God desiring mercy.
- The man's condition was not life threatening so Jesus could have waited till after the Sabbath to heal him. But Jesus was moved with compassion understanding the man's suffering and would not wait.
- Notice the commitment of Christ to the will of God.
- No matter the cost to Himself, no fear of putting Himself in danger or of giving His enemies material they looked for so that they might accuse Him and take His life.
- Yet He is unwavering, uncompromising in obedience to the will of the Father and mercy to fallen man.
- Jesus was not interested in being popular, but He was concerned with man's sorrow and the Father's will.

CONCLUSION:

- This man had a decision to make. Would he stretch forth his hand and trust Christ and disobey the Pharisees and risk breaking the Sabbath?
- Or would he sit down and obey the Pharisees and perhaps lose his healing?
- He stretched out his hand!!
- The command was given to a man totally incapable of doing what was commanded. Yet he obeyed, believed.
- What has become withered in our lives, in our families... stretch forth thy hand.. believe.
- Where do I find myself powerless in the spiritual fight. A particular sin, forgiveness, a grudge, judge mentalism, zeal.
- Are you disabled to live for Christ as you desire and know you should.
- We are without strength to cure ourselves, to answer our own prayers, to save ourselves, but stretch forth your hand....faith.

Now to Him who is able to do exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that works in us, ²¹ to Him be glory in the church by Christ Jesus to all generations, forever and ever. Amen.