

Gospel of Mark – Lesson Three Chapters Three and Four

- I. **"He is a lawbreaker"** - Controversy over the Sabbath
Mk 2:23-28 Over the disciples eating grain on the Sabbath
Mk 3:1-6 Over healing the deformed hand on the Sabbath

The man with the deformed hand was probably a staged situation. Jesus had compassion on the man. Jesus was not afraid of confrontation.

What was Jesus' response to the Pharisees?
What was the Pharisees' response to Jesus?

Why did Jesus heal?

- Compassion
- Prove He was sent from God
- A way to serve (He was a servant)
- To draw attention so he could teach them.
- To build faith in those who received Him.

- II. Mk 3:7-12 **"He is a miracle worker."**

News of Jesus spread far and wide.

Vast numbers of people came to see him. Why?

- They came to be healed
- They came to watch Jesus heal
- Many did not come to receive spiritual blessings.

The Crowds created a problem for Jesus:

- Pressed in on him
- Made it hard to preach
- Had no privacy
- Romans might think he was leading an uprising.
- Had to keep a boat available.

- III. Mk 3: 13-19 **"He is our Master"**

Ten times Mark refers to "The Twelve". These men were chosen:

- to live with Jesus
- to learn from Him
- to go out and serve under His authority

Why did the disciples follow Jesus?

IV. Mk 3:20-21, 31-35 "He is beside Himself"

His own family did not understand him.
They thought he was a fanatic and were worried about Him.
His family wanted him to give up his opposition to the religious leaders.

This is the only time Mary is mentioned by Mark. No one is interested in the mother of the servant.

Jesus used their concern for him to teach about what it means to be a part of God's family. Relationships in the kingdom of God are more important than natural ties.
What do you think about what Jesus said?

V. Mk 3:22-30 "He is in league with Satan."

How did the religious leaders explain Jesus' power?

They did not want to acknowledge that his power came from God.

V 27- Who is stronger than the strong man, Satan?

VI. Parables

Using familiar scenes to teach or explain spiritual truths.

Causes us to have to think.

Those too stubborn or prejudiced will not "hear" or understand what is taught.

"Hear" is used 13 times in this chapter.

Refers to the receiving of God's truth into the inner person.

We must be careful how we hear.

We receive the word so we can turn around and share with others. (Just as the lamp provides light for all in the house.)

Mk 4:23-25

As we obey, we will sharpen our understanding and receive more.

V 25 – Think of the Pharisees – what little understanding they had of God’s kingdom was lost as they rejected Christ and his teachings.

Mk 4:1-20, 26-34 **Parables of seeds**

Forces that work against the seed bearing fruit:

- Devil snatches the seed from hard hearts.
- The flesh produces a temporary response in shallow hearts.
- The world smothers the growth in crowded hearts.

Good ground= the prepared heart that receives the Word and produces a harvest.

This parable is not just about salvation.

This applies to every area of our lives, every word the spirit speaks to us.

Our hearts are a combination of soils. Some areas are more open to God’s will than others.

Changes come with time and circumstances.

Don’t be discouraged if you do not always see results as you faithfully teach the word.

- Some hearts do not receive the word, some have shallow faith; some allow the word to get choked out.
- V 27 – seed takes time to grow.
- All we can do is sow; God gives the increase.

VII. Mk 4:35-41 **Trusting**

Do you think that this was a test?

Was Jesus testing to see if the words he had sown in their hearts had taken hold and grown?

Did they pass the test?

Do we underestimate Jesus and His power?

Jesus rebuked the storm in the same way he rebuked demons.
Did the storm come from Satan?