

SERMON | THE COST OF MINISTRY

SERIES | BOOK OF MARK

STUDY GUIDE | RYAN ROMEO | SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 11, 2024

SERMON SUMMARY

In the beginning of Mark chapter 3, we see Jesus healing a man's withered hand, which instigated the religious leaders. The man with the withered hand wasn't a beggar. He was just in the synagogue and didn't ask for healing, so Jesus could have easily avoided controversy. At the time, Jewish law stipulated that only life-saving medical care can be exercised on the Sabbath. Jesus challenging the law forced the Pharisees to examine their tradition regarding the Sabbath to see if it was consistent with God's Old Testament law. That caused an immediate backlash, but this wasn't a pointless instigation.

Jesus then withdrew with His disciples to a boat on the sea and great crowds gathered around the shore. Jesus was gaining popularity and was displaying miraculous power in the height of His ministry. Mark is the only Gospel writer, who at this point in Jesus' ministry, noted that the masses came from all parts of Israel to see and hear Him. Many people came for the Healer, but this also brought more attention to a dangerous situation with the Pharisees, and eventually came to a head with His family when He came home.

Jesus' family was worried about Him, and rightly so. Even declaring, "He is out of his mind". Jesus' relatives evidently heard of the report of Mark 3:20, came to Capernaum to restrain Him from His many activities, and bring Him under their care and control. They did this because they cared for Him and thought it was for His own good but missed the Kingdom work happening right before their eyes.

Right before Jesus encountered problems with His earthly family, He retreated up on the mountain and established an inner circle with His disciples. Jesus formed His ministry with a new family, the 12 apostles He appointed that constituted the foundation of His church. Jesus taught us that whoever does the will of God is our brother, sister, and mother. Jesus made a decisive and comprehensive statement on true Christian discipleship. Such discipleship involves a spiritual relationship that transcends the physical family and is open to all who are empowered by the Spirit of God, to come to Christ in repentance and faith, and enabled to live a life of obedience to God's Word.

There is a price to following Jesus, but it is always worth it. And we can rejoice in knowing we are apart of God's family, working together as brothers and sisters in Christ, for the Glory of God!

SCRIPTURE READING

READ THIS WEEK'S BIBLE PASSAGE: Mark 3:1-10, 13-15, 20-21, 31-35 (ESV)

A Man with a Withered Hand

3 Again he entered the synagogue, and a man was there with a withered hand. **2** And they watched Jesus, to see whether he would heal him on the Sabbath, so that they might accuse him. **3** And he said to the man with the withered hand, "Come here." **4** And he said to them, "Is it lawful on the Sabbath to do good or to do harm, to save life or to kill?" But they were silent. **5** And he looked around at them with anger, grieved at their hardness of heart, and said to the man, "Stretch out

your hand.” He stretched it out, and his hand was restored. ⁶The Pharisees went out and immediately held counsel with the Herodians against him, how to destroy him.

A Great Crowd Follows Jesus

⁷Jesus withdrew with his disciples to the sea, and a great crowd followed, from Galilee and Judea ⁸and Jerusalem and Idumea and from beyond the Jordan and from around Tyre and Sidon. When the great crowd heard all that he was doing, they came to him. ⁹And he told his disciples to have a boat ready for him because of the crowd, lest they crush him, ¹⁰for he had healed many, so that all who had diseases pressed around him to touch him. – Mark 3: 1-10

The Twelve Apostles

¹³And he went up on the mountain and called to him those whom he desired, and they came to him. ¹⁴And he appointed twelve (whom he also named apostles) so that they might be with him and he might send them out to preach ¹⁵and have authority to cast out demons. – Mark 3:13-15

²⁰Then he went home, and the crowd gathered again, so that they could not even eat. ²¹And when his family heard it, they went out to seize him, for they were saying, “He is out of his mind.” – Mark 3:20-21

Jesus' Mother and Brothers

³¹And his mother and his brothers came, and standing outside they sent to him and called him. ³²And a crowd was sitting around him, and they said to him, “Your mother and your brothers are outside, seeking you.” ³³And he answered them, “Who are my mother and my brothers?” ³⁴And looking about at those who sat around him, he said, “Here are my mother and my brothers! ³⁵For whoever does the will of God, he is my brother and sister and mother.” – Mark 3:31-35

BIBLE PASSAGE APPLICATION QUESTIONS

What stood out to you in these passages? Did the Lord highlight anything to you? What do these passages teach you about the character of God? What do these passages teach you about mankind? What do these passages teach you about how mankind should respond to God? What do these passages teach you about how to respond to others?

Read these passages again (use a different translation if helpful). How did these passages help to convict, correct, or encourage you?

GROUP DISCUSSION

DISCUSS THESE QUESTIONS WITH YOUR GROUP

1. What are some of the highlights of your walk with Jesus?
2. Has there been a time in your life where you felt you had a real impact on someone else?
Has someone had a real impact on you?
3. Is there a time that being a Christian or serving in ministry was challenging for you?
4. Are there any exciting seasons of ministry work in your life? Share with the group!
5. How has being apart of the family of God changed your life?

PRAYER

Take some time for prayer requests and pray over one another before wrapping up.

