



October 3, 2012

Mark 3:1-35 (NASB)

A Sabbath Healing

¹ He entered again into a synagogue; and a man was there whose hand was withered. ² They were watching Him to see if He would heal him on the Sabbath, so that they might accuse Him. ³ He said to the man with the withered hand, "Get up and come forward!" ⁴ And He said to them, "Is it lawful to do good or to do harm on the Sabbath, to save a life or to kill?" But they kept silent. ⁵ 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. ⁶ The Pharisees went out and immediately began conspiring with the Herodians against Him, as to how they might destroy Him.

A Retreat

⁷ Jesus withdrew to the sea with His disciples; and a great multitude from Galilee followed; and also from Judea, ⁸ and from Jerusalem, and from Idumea, and beyond the Jordan, and the vicinity of Tyre and Sidon, a great number of people heard of all that He was doing and came to Him. ⁹ And He told His disciples that a boat should stand ready for Him because of the crowd, so that they would not crowd Him; ¹⁰ for He had healed many, with the result that all those who had afflictions pressed around Him in order to touch Him. ¹¹ Whenever the unclean spirits saw Him, they would fall down before Him and shout, "You are the Son of God!" ¹² And He earnestly warned them not to tell who He was.

Choosing the Twelve

¹³ And He went up on the mountain and summoned those whom He Himself wanted, and they came to Him. ¹⁴ And He appointed twelve, so that they would be with Him and that He could send them out to preach, ¹⁵ and to have authority to cast out the demons. ¹⁶ And He appointed the twelve: Simon (to whom He gave the name Peter), ¹⁷ and James, the son of Zebedee, and John the brother of James (to them He gave the name Boanerges, which means, “Sons of Thunder”); ¹⁸ and Andrew, and Philip, and Bartholomew, and Matthew, and Thomas, and James the son of Alphaeus, and Thaddaeus, and Simon the Zealot; ¹⁹ and Judas Iscariot, who betrayed Him.

Demonic Accusations

²⁰ And He came home, and the crowd gathered again, to such an extent that they could not even eat a meal. ²¹ When His own people heard of this, they went out to take custody of Him; for they were saying, “He has lost His senses.” ²² The scribes who came down from Jerusalem were saying, “He is possessed by Beelzebul,” and “He casts out the demons by the ruler of the demons.” ²³ And He called them to Himself and began speaking to them in parables, “How can Satan cast out Satan? ²⁴ “If a kingdom is divided against itself, that kingdom cannot stand. ²⁵ “If a house is divided against itself, that house will not be able to stand. ²⁶ “If Satan has risen up against himself and is divided, he cannot stand, but he is finished! ²⁷ “But no one can enter the strong man’s house and plunder his property unless he first binds the strong man, and then he will plunder his house. ²⁸ “Truly I say to you, all sins shall be forgiven the sons of men, and whatever blasphemies they utter; ²⁹ but whoever blasphemes against the Holy Spirit never has forgiveness, but is guilty of an eternal sin” — ³⁰ because they were saying, “He has an unclean spirit.”

Family Redefined

³¹ Then His mother and His brothers arrived, and standing outside they sent word to Him and called Him. ³² A crowd was sitting around Him, and they said to Him, “Behold, Your mother and Your brothers are outside looking for You.” ³³ Answering them, He said, “Who are My mother and My brothers?” ³⁴ Looking about at those who were sitting around Him, He said, “Behold My mother and My brothers! ³⁵ “For whoever does the will of God, he is My brother and sister and mother.”

Additional Notes and Doodles

Reflection Questions

Mark 3:1-35

1. Jesus healed the man with the withered hand on the Sabbath. We might say that Jesus valued the “spirit” of the Law over the “letter” of the Law. When have you experienced the tension of *spirit* vs. *letter*? How did you resolve the conflict?

2. Jesus was grieved at the hardness of heart of the Pharisees. What factors can contribute to one’s heart becoming hardened? On what issues do you find your heart to be hard? What steps can you take to soften your heart?

3. It appears that Jesus needed some space from the encroaching crowd. What situations cause you to seek a retreat? How has God spoken to you during these times?

4. Jesus chose the 12 disciples to continue His preaching ministry. How have you experienced God’s call on your life to participate in the gospel?

5. For a variety of reasons, the religious leaders accused Jesus of being demon-possessed. Why does a lack of understanding lead to fear and accusation? How do you feel regarding Jesus’ comments on the unforgivable sin?

6. Jesus redefined His family as being those who do His will. How have you experienced this type of family? In what ways is this family invisible? Visible?

7. Identify one specific thing from this passage which you can apply to your life? How will you implement this?