

Introduction

“Mark’s gospel has Jesus on the go. ‘He immediately’ is Mark’s favorite phrase for everything that happened to and through the Lord. You almost get the feeling that Jesus came through our world and barely slowed down to sixty miles per hour his whole life! Mark’s gospel is good for those who don’t like to read all that ‘extra stuff’ like long sermons or lessons. (As Sgt. Friday on Dragnet used to say:) ‘Just the fact, Ma’am.’”¹

Healing on the Sabbath

Jesus entered the synagogue on the Sabbath and saw a man with a withered hand.

Read Mark 3: 1-3

The Torah prohibited a list of “work” tasks on the Sabbath:

Planting- plowing, and watering. This even included changing the water in a vase of cut flowers;

Reaping- which included climbing a tree or riding an animal;

Threshing- To squeeze fruit for its juice or to milk a cow was not allowed;

Washing- or sewing clothes or **Dyeing** anything, which includes the use of lipstick and eyeshadow;

Building anything, whether it's building a structure or building a fire;

Writing two letters. Also, erasing in order to write only two letters;

Grinding- including cutting pieces of fruit or vegetables for salads. No coffee or

pepper grinding;

Sorting- or using a sieve, which means that using a tea bag was forbidden;

Kneading, cooking, baking- Food may be kept warm but not reheated.

Turning on the heat was not allowed.

¹ Rudolph, Day 295.

If the man's hand was life-threatening, the Pharisees would have no problem with it being cared for; but, apparently it was not life-threatening, so, to their minds, it should not be addressed on the Sabbath.

Read Mark 3: 4-6

- Pharisees (and Sadducees) were primarily religious sects.
- Herodians were a political faction that supported the dynasty of Herod the Great and his successors, locally Herod Antipas.
- Not normally friendly to each other, but here their allied purpose was the destruction of Jesus.

The Unclean Spirits

When Jesus went to the Sea of Galilee, he was swarmed by the people.

Read Mark 3: 7-12.

Note: the spirits recognized Jesus as the Son of God, but there is no salvation associated with that acknowledgement. This alerts us that to profess belief in all the major doctrines does not guarantee salvation.

Appointing the Twelve

Mark is very concise in his recounting of the selection of Jesus Disciples.

Read Mark 3:13-19.

Jesus Answers the Pharisees

The crowd gathered thickly so that Jesus could not even get into his house to even eat. And, many were hostile:

for people were saying, "He is beside himself." ²² And the scribes who came down from Jerusalem said, "He is possessed by Be-el'zebul, and by the prince of demons he casts out the demons." Mark 3:21b-22.

Read Mark 3:23-26.

The Unforgivable Sin

Every sin can be forgiven, except this (**Read Mark 3:28-30**):

This makes reference to the earlier encounter with the unclean spirits.

Christ's True Kindred

Read Mark 3: 31-35.

What qualifies someone to be in Jesus' family? _____

Summary

Why did Jesus not heal everybody? _____

Mark made 3 (Presbyterian) points in this chapter:

- 1) No bad time to do good
- 2) Blaspheming the Holy Spirit will cost you your Salvation
- 3) Doing the Will of God makes you Jesus' family

Would Jesus consider yourself to be His mother, brother, or sister?

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4. McKenna, David L., Mastering The New Testament: Mark, Lloyd Ogilvie, General Editor, Word Publishing, Dallas, TX, 1982, pp. 72-87.
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