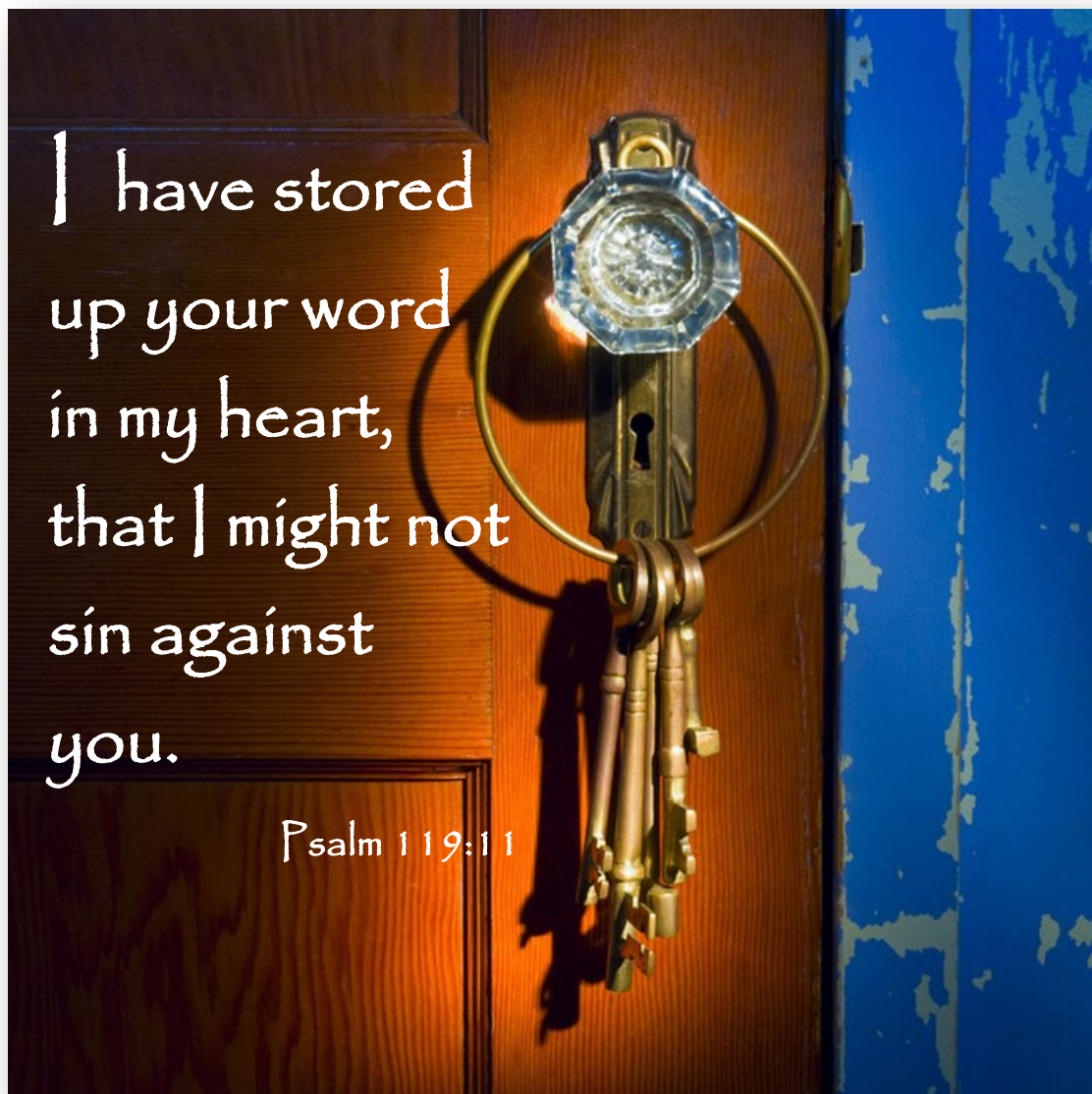


UNLOCKING THE WORD



THE GOSPEL OF MARK STUDY GUIDE

Chapter 3



CHAPTER 3

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THE GOSPEL OF MARK
JESUS CHRIST SERVANT AND KING
A STUDY OF MARK 3
STUDY ONE

JESUS, LORD OF THE SABBATH

MARK 3:1-6

WHEN GOD LEADS YOU INTO SOMETHING, IT MAY OFTEN INCLUDE THOSE WHO WATCH TO SEE WHAT MAY HAPPEN. EITHER TO JOIN IN OR TO QUESTION, EITHER WAY YOU SUBMIT TO HIS LORDSHIP.

—PASTOR DALE

Jesus is once again entering a synagogue to teach the Gospel of the Kingdom to the nation of Israel. As chapter three begins trouble is heating up between the Jewish leaders and Jesus. The main points of contention are the positions they have taken regarding 1) what the kingdom of God is; 2) how those in the kingdom should live; and 3) who will actually be in the kingdom.

Jesus will again establish and make the claim that He is divine, Lord of the Sabbath. He purposely confronts the leadership of the day and their false understanding of the kingdom of God with truth that He is Lord of it. He does this in anger, a normal attitude of any earthly king to those under his lordship who will not submit to their authority.

Today, the idea of Lordship is not even in the realm of our cultural context. Even farther out of the norm today is the cultural push away from the biblical norms of life, morality and all things good as The Lord of the Sabbath defines them. The new norms from our leaders are diametrically opposed to the Word of God and trouble is beginning to brew.

Let's take a closer look at lordship, our emotions, and what the consequences can be from Mark 3:1-6.

JESUS, LORD OF THE SABBATH
MARK 3:1-6

PREPARATION

Stop and pause before you begin by asking the Holy Spirit to reveal the truths of God's Word to you, and to quiet your mind to be focused on Him.

Father in heaven, I come to You spiritually hungry and thirsty desiring to be nourished by your Word. I ask your guidance, direction and comfort to help me grow in the knowledge and understanding of the riches I find here. Thank you for it and that you have revealed Jesus my Lord and Savior in it. Let this time grow me in His likeness so that I can follow more fully. For the glory of your kingdom I pray. Amen.

LOOK TO THE WORD

Mark 3:1-6 isn't the only place this particular testimony is given. In Matthew 12:9-14 we learn of a monetary element that Jesus included in his example that they all understood because it would equate to their monetary wealth and it made their thoughts more transparent. Luke 6:6-11 is the other reference. As we'll see this is only the beginning of the clash of who is submitting to whom.

OBSERVATIONS: CONFRONTATION OF LORDS

Take your time and thoughtfully read Mark 3:1-6, Matthew 12:9-14 and Luke 6:6-11. Record your observations below, the characters, places mentioned, attitudes or emotions and questions you have.

JESUS, LORD OF THE SABBATH
MARK 3:1-6

Who are the four characters from this passage? From Scripture, create a profile to describe them?

Person	Profile	Scripture

The Pharisees had an accusatory attitude toward Jesus. Why do you think that is? What does this attitude presuppose, if anything, and not allow for?

Why do you think Jesus didn't just wait to heal on another day?

Why is Jesus always pressing the Jewish leaders? What does Jesus possess that the Pharisees think they have?

Why is it important to speak truth to a lie? What was the lie the Pharisees were believing?

JESUS, LORD OF THE SABBATH
MARK 3:1-6

Why would the Pharisees want to destroy Jesus when they saw the miracle? Why can't they rejoice and glorify God?

Define Lordship:

In Matthew's (12:10) account the Pharisees ask a question, "is it lawful to heal on the Sabbath?" In many instances the real question or issue gets twisted in the way it gets asked. The Pharisees question made it into a matter of "do" or "not do" and then pre-determined that up holding the law required the latter and disregarded everything the Sabbath was for. Many today start with a pre-determined conclusion of a belief and then try to substantiate that belief anyway they can. Do you see this happening and if so where do you see this technique used and in what circumstances?

What does it say about the character of the Pharisees that they would be willing to help an animal but let a human being suffer?

How does Jesus answer the question they pose? How does He re-state the question the way it should have been asked?

What is the focus of each question in the way it is asked?

Jesus is Lord of the Sabbath. The Sabbath part of the law and the law is holy and good. Jesus' question speaks to the highest moral good, to save a life. What deeds, attitudes or beliefs should those under His lordship live out?

The Pharisees went out to plan how to destroy Jesus. Who's lordship are they under then?

Share any other questions or observation you have.

INTERPRETATIONS: JESUS AS LORD

Traditions can be fine. But in what ways, if any, do we hold onto our traditions higher than the Word of God?

If someone walked into your synagogue or work place and expressed a paradigm so contrary to your own, breaking down everything you held to be true, how might you respond?

What other options are there for “Lords” of your life?

Jesus gets angry during this episode, the word here could be “furious”. Have you ever thought of Jesus that way? Why or why not?

Jesus being divine... Lord, what position does this put YOU in? If you don't know the story of Job take time to read it and think about what happened to him. What does Job understand about this idea of Jesus as Lord?

APPLICATION: GOD'S WILL TODAY

Jesus confronted the truth of His kingdom with a belief of the Pharisees that they thought was true. He backs up His claim to Truth with a miracle not only of this man with a withered hand, but ultimately in His resurrection and defeating death. Today we are confronted with the same conflict. The conflict of who is Lord of your life shows up based on Jesus' question "to do good or to do harm, to save a life or to kill".

What are the ideologies in our culture that conflict with the truth of Jesus' lordship today?

Scripture say to be angry but don't sin (Ephesians 4:26, James 1:19-20). The temptation is to just get angry about it all, but what must accompany that anger so that restoration can be possible?

The response of people, good or bad, is out of our control but what is not? How can you hold to the convictions of Jesus' Lordship under difficult circumstances and conflicts that cause real pain?

Two years later, Jesus was destroyed, or so the Pharisees thought. No matter where we are in life the Lordship of Jesus demands we submit to His will and obey. The results of that obedience are His to command in our life whether good or ill for our person. We can be assured that no matter what those circumstances are it will be for our holiness and His glory. So be still and know that He is God. —Pastor Dale

THE GOSPEL OF MARK
JESUS CHRIST SERVANT AND KING
A STUDY OF MARK 3
STUDY TWO

WHO IS JESUS?

MARK 3:7-12

JESUS IS TRULY GOD, TRULY MAN, TO MISS THIS POINT IS TO MISS THE WHOLE OF NOT ONLY MARK'S GOSPEL BUT THE WHOLE OF SCRIPTURE.

—PASTOR DALE

Mark and the other three gospels are written as proof or evidence of the deity of Jesus Christ. Mark's opening line in chapter 1 is to say that Jesus is no mere man or prophet, or religious leader but the Son of God. Anyone hearing that, especially a Jew, would make the connection being made that Jesus is God Himself. He is Deity.

Multitudes came from all over the area, following Jesus even as he was attempting to find some rest. Jesus is trying to withdraw from the crowds now following him along with his disciples. The crowd is described as a "great crowd" and they are distinct from the disciples who will soon be named by Mark in the next passage.

The description of this crowd was that they were from differing regions around the country now ruled by Romans. The readers of Mark's gospel would have understood the importance of these regions or cities being named, not only their location, but what each meant to the Roman empire. (Galilee, Judea, and Jerusalem, Idumea, beyond the Jordan and from Tyre and Sidon.) Basically the whole land of Israel and Syria were following Jesus in order to hear him.

Tyre and Sidon each had more than a legion of Roman Soldiers (6000 infantry soldiers), not to mention the soldiers in Jerusalem. Keeping the peace was the primary purpose of these soldiers during the Pax Romana (Reign of Peace) of Augustus and during the following reign of Tiberius. Many Romans would have understood this and would also realize in reading this passage that the "great crowds" following Jesus could be considered a possible disruption of the peace. But that this Jesus was very different from the Roman rulers they had to live under.

WHO IS JESUS?

MARK 3:7-12

What were these rulers like? **Tiberius** was a deeply conservative Roman who understood that he was a man and not a god and refused to accept the title of the divine. **Caligula** the next emperor was not so humble and claimed to be a god and insisted that a statue in his image be placed in the Jewish temple in Jerusalem. **Claudius** was a crippled old man who was eventually poisoned by his fourth wife, but not before he expelled the Jews from Rome in 49 A.D. Then came **Nero** who murdered his advisors and would eventually blame Jews for the burning of Rome, and after a military revolt, committed suicide. Both Tiberius and Claudius were somewhat normal men, however Caligula and Nero were basically insane. (See also Mark 10:42-45)

Jesus was a ruler, who while claiming to be a King, did not militarily take his rule, but instead healed people. Here was a ruler who had full control over the spiritual world in that he cast out unclean spirits from people, and they fell down before him and cried out "You are the Son of God." None of these rulers could hold a candle to the Majesty of Jesus.

PREPARATION

Stop and pause before you begin by asking the Holy Spirit to reveal the truths of God's Word to you, and to quiet your mind to be focused on Him.

Father in heaven, I come to You spiritually hungry and thirsty desiring to be nourished by your Word. I ask your guidance, direction and comfort to help me grow in the knowledge and understanding of the riches I find here. Thank you for it and that you have revealed Jesus my Lord and Savior in it. Let this time grow me in His likeness so that I can follow more fully. For the glory your kingdom I pray. Amen.

LOOK TO THE WORD

The message of Mark is that Jesus is the Son of God and that eternal life comes to those who believe who Jesus is. Belief in who Jesus is must come with evidence of His deity which is contained in all four gospels, one of those sections is Mark 3:7-12.

The evidence is overwhelming as to who Jesus is. No one every denied His miracles nor a refutable argument about what He taught. No one was able to deny His authority and power over the demonic forces He faced, not even those who hated Him most. Yet even His own disciples had to ask the question in chapter 4, "what kind of man is this?" Let's find out.

WHO IS JESUS?

MARK 3:7-12

OBSERVATIONS: THE DISCIPLES, THE DROVES, AND DEMONS

Take your time and thoughtfully read Mark 3:7-12, Matthew 12:15-32. Record your observations below, the characters, places mentioned, attitudes or emotions and questions you have.

WHO IS JESUS?
MARK 3:7-12

OBSERVATIONS CONT.

Who are the characters from this passage? From Scripture, create a profile to describe them?

Person	Profile	Scripture

According to our text, the demons knew who Jesus was, the miracles made it obvious who He was. Why did all those people not get who Jesus is? For insight, go back and look at Mark 2:21-22.

With respect then to this passage, what did Jesus come to do?

How is it that Jesus could come to abolish the law? What character trait must there be for the Messiah to fulfill the law and abolish Judaism therefore bringing it to an end?

Read 2 Corinthians 3:1-11. What does Paul say is coming to an end? Ask yourself how hard would it be to let go of the old covenant if you didn't believe or understand that God was sending One who would put an end to the old way and establish a new covenant?

WHO IS JESUS?
MARK 3:7-12

OBSERVATIONS CONT.

Knowing a new covenant is Jesus' plan, look at John 2:13-19. What is Jesus doing and why? And what are the people asking for? Who is the only one who can cleanse the temple?

Jesus does the same the again at the end of His ministry in Mark 11:15-19. In the previous text of John and this one, is Jesus really wanting to "cleanse" the temple? Explain.

How did Jesus prophesy in John's text that He was going to cleanse the temple?

What then was the future of the temple the day Jesus arrived?

If then God set up the temple with the law of Moses and Israel followed that form of worship in the temple, who is the only one that can legitimately put an end to the form of worship? How does that substantiate Jesus' claim of deity?

If you look at Mark 3:6 with such a strong statement, what must they know about who Jesus is and about the future of their system of worship; about what will happen to it and to the power they have in society?

Jesus has already had four confrontations with the powers that be: three in chapter 2, one in the previous section of chapter 3. With all the pressure coming down on Him and the disciples, what is verse 7 an act of?

What is the common sense act we are to do without over spiritualizing a situation?
2 Timothy 2:22 for example.

WHO IS JESUS?
MARK 3:7-12

OBSERVATIONS CONT.

Verse seven says there were great crowds coming from all over. Mark 1:21, 28, 32, 39; 2:13, and again in Mark 3:8. What does the testimony of the crowd say about those who would not believe?

Jesus' miracles are daily, public and undeniable... a testament of His Deity. How far would you travel for a fake?

There now is a great crowd like no one has ever seen. What is the typical mindset of a large group of people who either see things or hear things like this making someone so popular?

Who in verse 11 validates Jesus power in performing all these miracles? How do demons hide their true identity? See 2 Corinthians 11:14. Why do they want to be seen as evil and wretched do you think?

Read James 2:19. What two characteristics do demons have? If Jesus is truly God, who must He have power over?

Why are they always told to be quiet? If they were not kept silent, what association must be made? How would that undermine Jesus ministry?

WHO IS JESUS?
MARK 3:7-12

APPLICATION: GOD'S WILL TODAY

Many people believe that “faith in Jesus” means to blindly believe without any evidence. That’s not biblical faith. According to Mark 8:29, what is the most important question a person need answer?

1 Peter 3:15 says we are to give a reasoned answer to those who ask of the hope in us. What answer(s) can you formulate to those who say the following:

- Jesus wasn’t God.
- Jesus never claimed to be God.
- Jesus is just a god.
- Jesus was just a good teacher.

What other objections have you encountered? Write them down here.

What affect does the fact the Jesus is the Son of God have on your life?

If you have never responded to Jesus Christ as the Son of God, know that the beginning of all human knowledge and wisdom starts with the reverent fear of who Jesus is. If you don’t start there, all the evidence in the world will not convince you, because in your mind you say God doesn’t exist. And the only way a rational person could come to that conclusion is if they had all knowledge, and if that’s true, I should be worshipping you . —Pastor Dale

THE GOSPEL OF MARK
JESUS CHRIST SERVANT AND KING
A STUDY OF MARK 3
STUDY THREE

THE CALLING OF THE APOSTLES

MARK 3:13-19

“WHO SHALL ASCEND THE HILL OF THE LORD?”

—PSALM 24:3

Jesus had a habit of going up to the mountain for significant events of His earthly ministry: prayer and fellowship with the Father; the Transfiguration; and in our text, the calling of His apostles. This follows many of the significant events on or around mountains in the Old Testament, so it shouldn't be a surprise that this is made mention of here. It should also make us sit up and take notice.

The background for the term apostle in the earliest Greek form is connected with seafaring and more specifically military expeditions. That could give it a political bent in that it's common expression was used to dispatch a fleet or army on a military expedition. The idea being it was a group of men who were selected and sent out for a particular purpose. That's exactly what Jesus is doing: selecting His men and sending them out to preach the kingdom of God.

Jesus is about to multiply the ministry by choosing some of the most unlikely people of the day. People, that apart from this calling would never, if ever, on their own just hangout and do life together. The central theme and focus is WHO is doing the calling, Jesus.

When you read the first six verses of Psalm 24 there is a clear reason why is it possible for only Jesus to give this call. David makes this declaration: the earth and all that is in it belongs to Him. How? For the only one who can ascend to the hill of the Lord, who can stand in the holy place, who has clean hands and a pure heart is Jesus. Therefore, Jesus has the authority to place the call on whomever He chooses.

Jesus, by his calling, is giving out the invitation to be a part of something bigger than any earthly endeavor, something that will last for eternity and it all begins on a mountain.

PREPARATION OF THE HEART

Stop and pause before you begin by asking the Holy Spirit to reveal the truths of God's Word to you, and to quiet your mind to be focused on Him.

Father in heaven, I come to You spiritually hungry and thirsty desiring to be nourished by your Word. I ask your guidance, direction and comfort to help me grow in the knowledge and understanding of the riches I find here. Thank you for it and that you have revealed Jesus my Lord and Savior in it. Let this time grow me in His likeness so that I can follow more fully. For the glory of your kingdom I pray. Amen.

LOOK TO THE WORD

Mark 3:13-19 is the calling of the Twelve but there have been other callings all throughout Scripture. Here are a few ideas to also look at: **Noah**-Genesis 6:8; **Abram**-Genesis 12:1; **Moses**-Exodus 3:10; **Gideon**-Judges 6:11. There are others like **Mary** the mother of Jesus. Take time to look up those that come to mind as well.

OBSERVATIONS

Searching the Word of God begins with making observations of the text to uncover as many details the author intended us to know. Make a list of the Twelve and describe their character traits, what you know about them.

OBSERVATIONS CONT.

As you look at the Twelve, if they were a basketball team, how well do you think they would be as a team?

What do you think was the motivation for Jesus picking such a diverse group? What purpose would this serve?

What is the significance, if any, for choosing twelve?

What is the significance, if any, for being on a mountain?

Mark uses the term desire. Jesus had strong motivations for those he is picking, what was his motivation(s)?

THE CALLING OF THE APOSTLES

MARK 3:13-19

OBSERVATIONS CONT.

What are the three specific reasons Jesus is appointing the twelve?

What does it mean for God to call? See Romans 3:11

What does this say about the character of God?

Read Philippians 1:6. What is the importance of knowing this and what help does this provide?

In Matthew 11:28, Luke 19:5, John 10:3—What is this call? Are they different, if so how?

INTERPRETATIONS:

These twelve were given a specific calling on their lives. Do we have the same calling? Why or why not?

As a Christian there is a calling on your life, not as an apostle but certainly as a disciple, a follower, a learner in obedience to the one who's call is on your life. This calling has interrupted your life from the direction it was once moving, into a new direction. Take time to write or share the effects this call has had on your life.

Read John 6:44-47. What is the language Jesus uses in vs 44 to call? What is His promise and again in vs 47? What is the result of God drawing (calling) a person in vs 45? And what do you call someone who has heard the gospel and is learning from God? See Matthew 28:18-20 for a parallel of this process.

APPLICATION: GOD'S WILL TODAY

The first calling on the life of a sinner is to hear the gospel for salvation. Do you think the twelve knew what or how this calling would change their lives?

Jesus doesn't ask anything He hasn't or isn't willing to show his followers. Jesus was "sent" from heaven to seek and to save lost souls. He empowers these twelve to go out to proclaim the kingdom. Do you think He has called you to do the same? If so, how have you been empowered?

Rick Yancey in his book "The Fifth Wave", writes these words, "God does not call the equipped, He equips the called." How have you been equipped for kingdom work?

What areas in your life do you see the need to be equipped in? How will you develop a plan to grow or continue in that direction?

What other applications can you make that Christ's calling on your life is doing?

THE GOSPEL OF MARK
JESUS CHRIST SERVANT AND KING
A STUDY OF MARK 3
STUDY FOUR

IS JESUS A MAD MAN?

MARK 3:20-30

YOU CAN SHUT HIM UP FOR A FOOL, YOU CAN SPIT AT HIM AND KILL HIM AS A DEMON; OR YOU CAN FALL AT HIS FEET AND CALL HIM LORD AND GOD. BUT LET US NOT COME UP WITH ANY PATRONIZING NONSENSE ABOUT HIS BEING A GREAT HUMAN TEACHER. HE HAS NOT LEFT THAT OPEN TO US. HE DID NOT INTEND TO.”

—C.S. LEWIS, MERE CHRISTIANITY

Jesus has appointed the Twelve disciples, empowering them to go out and proclaim the Kingdom of God as they have seen Him doing from the time of His baptism to this point of His ministry. Some time has passed and they come home and once again a huge multitude of people come to the house, (Mark 2:1-2), so much so that they couldn't even eat.

Jesus was expending himself teaching, healing, and simply traveling and here He is back home probably exhausted from it all. His family comes, maybe in part to rescue him from the crowd but also from the Jewish leadership, for by now the tension has ramped up and the power struggle has begun as to who Jesus really is. John tells us that his family did not believe who he was (John 7:5) so the plan they came up with was to say "He has lost his mind" and possibly whisk Him away.

The scribes had made their way from Jerusalem to confront Jesus and hurl an unsubstantiated claim (slander) at Him, which had been used before (Matthew 9:34). It seems there is nothing new under the sun in terms of politics.

One thing that should catch your eye is what Jesus does next: He calls them to Himself. This is the only time we see this in Scripture, where Jesus uses His authority to summon the Jewish leaders to a face to face confrontation in full view of the crowd only to then answer their slander in a most crushing way. Jesus calls them to account. He is respectful, but He is not concerned about how they feel when He's done as He lays their intentions bare. Even the uneducated crowd would understand what the Jewish leaders were saying was foolish.

IS JESUS A MAD MAN?
MARK 3:20-30

PREPARATION OF THE HEART

Stop and pause before you begin by asking the Holy Spirit to reveal the truths of God's Word to you, and to quiet your mind to be focused on Him.

Father in heaven, I come to You spiritually hungry and thirsty desiring to be nourished by your Word. I ask your guidance, direction and comfort to help me grow in the knowledge and understanding of the riches I find here. Thank you for it and that you have revealed Jesus my Lord and Savior in it. Let this time grow me in His likeness so that I can follow more fully. For the glory of your kingdom I pray. Amen.

LOOK TO THE WORD

As you read Mark 3:20-30, notice three distinct sections. **First**, Mark explains how Jesus, after an extended period of ministry is once again leading a huge crowd and once again the Jewish leadership is taking notice (Mark 3:20-21). **Second**, Jesus teaches about the reality of kingdoms, all kingdoms, either here on earth or eternal kingdoms (Mark 3:22-27). **Third**, we see a promise along with a warning to those who would denounce the work of the Holy Spirit, the conviction of sin, leaving those in a position where repentance is no longer possible (Mark 3:28-30).

OBSERVATIONS

Searching the Word of God begins with making observations of the text to uncover as many details the author intended us to know. So in the space below make a list of who the characters are, why they are there, what has been happening in order to create a picture of what the context is.

IS JESUS A MAD MAN?
MARK 3:20-30

OBSERVATIONS CONT.

We are not told for how long, but what had been happening leading up to Jesus returning home? Why is Mark letting us know that they couldn't even eat?

His family did not believe Jesus was the Messiah, (John 7:5) and in light of all this evidence what is the explanation they came up with? What does this say about unbelief in the face of evidence and why isn't evidence ever enough? See also Acts 26:24, 1 Corinthians 5:13.

Scribes were experts in the law and worked in a variety capacities: religious, political, judicial, social, teaching the law, copying manuscripts, being advisors, diplomats, judges and administrators. They would typically be members of the Sanhedrin, as Pharisees or Sadducees. These men were not there but heard what Jesus did (Matthew 12:24). Why do you think they felt they must give a contrary explanation for this miracle and why in connection to the demonic?

In the attempt for power and control—political or otherwise—what tactic is being used toward Jesus? Matthew 9:34, 10:25, 12:24; Luke 11:15.

What parallels do you see in our own day of truth claims being made and then facts being found?

IS JESUS A MAD MAN?
MARK 3:20-30

OBSERVATIONS CONT.

Jesus calls the scribes and then tells them a parable, a long analogy often in the form of a story. What does Jesus ask that should have been obvious to the scribes, the keepers of the law, educated men? Vs 23-26.

What is the normal, natural conclusion, of anything that is divided against itself?

In Jesus story, who is the strong man Jesus is referring to?

What does Jesus say it takes to enter a strong man's house?

In whose house does sickness, afflictions, unclean spirits, reside in?

Who then is stronger than the strong man in Jesus' parable? Who is the one invading the strong man's house? And what has been the long list of evidence that Jesus has been providing?

IS JESUS A MAD MAN?
MARK 3:20-30

OBSERVATIONS CONT.

Blaspheming the Holy Spirit

What is the promise first given in vs. 28?

What is the task of the Holy Spirit found in John 16:7-11?

What is the second promise in vs 29? See also Matthew 12:31

If there is no forgiveness of sin because of unbelief, not submitting to the Holy Spirit because you think it's from the devil, what else is not possible for him or you?

INTERPRETATIONS:

-Division breeds destruction at all levels physically, nationally, in the family, church and marriages, but also spiritually.

-Jesus has proven himself to be stronger than the strong man Satan by entering this world and then cleaning up his house of sickness and death. What is the ultimate proof of this?

-Jesus gives two promises in that all sins will be forgiven and only one sin will not, the sin of unbelief.

-What other interpretations do you see?

IS JESUS A MAD MAN?
MARK 3:20-30

APPLICATION: GOD'S WILL TODAY

Many people say they want more evidence that God exists but then never do anything with it. What type of gospel conversations do we need to be prepared for knowing that those who do this only want to discredit and reject God?

The pattern of willful unbelief, like the scribes, begins with intellect, then is emotional, verbal, and finally hostile. Have you ever experienced this or have seen this pattern? Knowing this pattern how should we prepare to face this?

Jesus was accused of being out of his mind. By extension, we are told the same things today: being out of touch, not relevant, etc. Not that Jesus needs defending, yet what do you think is a good tact to take to dispel that idea? And what does it matter what others think?

What are ways we should be encouraging one another knowing what we are facing? How will you express and commit to this?

THE GOSPEL OF MARK
JESUS CHRIST SERVANT AND KING
A STUDY OF MARK 3
STUDY FIVE

THE FAMILY OF GOD

MARK 3:31-35

“AND THEY DEVOTED THEMSELVES TO THE APOSTLES TEACHING AND THE FELLOWSHIP, TO THE BREAKING OF BREAD AND THE PRAYERS.”

—ACTS 2:42

This last section of Mark 3 has Jesus' family once again interacting with Him. The family interaction began back in vs 20 with an attempt to control his embarrassing activity as they called him "out of his mind". And honestly, this would be a rational response to a sibling you grew up with and then get word of what he is doing and that he's equating himself with God. Under the circumstances, knowing what the law would require of such talk, you'd be a bit uneasy about what was going on, too.

So now Jesus has come full circle, with his disciples beside him and again a large crowd has gathered, while his earthly family is standing outside (again). This is the last time in Mark we will see Jesus's family— leaving us to assume they've given up their attempt to stop him from doing his ministry. We are left with the picture of his family leaving and Jesus affirming a new family: those who also will be called.

Some will criticize this seemingly harsh attitude Jesus has towards his family in light of the fifth commandment but we know a couple of things: 1) he didn't break any of the commandments and 2) this is likened to when he was twelve at the temple with his parents. One other thing we know is that both Mary and James were part of the early church for which James was martyred. Even on the cross Jesus honored his mother, see John 19:25-27.

What Jesus makes abundantly clear is that the higher priority is this new family and that family takes precedence... even if doing the will of God causes hostility to one's own family, a price worth paying.

PREPARATION OF THE HEART

Stop and pause before you begin by asking the Holy Spirit to reveal the truths of God's Word to you, and to quiet your mind to be focused on Him.

Father in heaven, I come to You spiritually hungry and thirsty desiring to be nourished by your Word. I ask your guidance, direction and comfort to help me grow in the knowledge and understanding of the riches I find here. Thank you for it and that you have revealed Jesus my Lord and Savior in it. Let this time grow me in His likeness so that I can follow more fully. For the glory of your kingdom I pray. Amen.

LOOK TO THE WORD

When you look at Mark from verses 20-35 with respect to Jesus' family it appears to be a literary sandwich. They appear in vs 20 claiming Jesus is mad, in the middle the claim of being demon possessed, then back to the family again. Jesus sums all this up with the words whoever does the will of God is part of the family.

The key point to the section of study comes in the form of a question. Do you know and do the will of God? Jesus couldn't be clearer: if yes you're a part of God's family, if not you're not. Simple as that.

OBSERVATIONS

Searching the Word of God begins with making observations of the text to uncover as many details the author intended us to know. What is so striking about these verses?

OBSERVATIONS CONT.

One of the keys is “knowing” the will of God. The following is a list of Scripture with some reference to the will of God. Look them up and write what it is or what is being referenced.

Scripture Reference

The will of God

Isaiah 53:10

John 6:40

Romans 8:27

Romans 12:2

Galatians 1:4

John 4:34, 5:30, 6:38

Ephesians 5:17

Ephesians 6:6

OBSERVATIONS CONT.

Scripture Reference

The will of God

Colossians 4:12

1 Thessalonians 4:3, 5:18

Hebrews 10:36

1 Peter 2:13-15

1 Peter 4:2

Mark 3:35, 1 John 2:27

What are some other “wills of God” that you know of?

OBSERVATIONS CONT.

How do you not fall into the ditch of self-righteousness or become so focused on “doing” that you forget about just “being” with God? Psalm 40:8, Romans 7:22

Doing God’s will from the heart is the difference maker, what does He call you? Matthew 12:50, John 15:14, Hebrews 2:11, Luke 11:28.

What is the warning? Matthew 7:21

INTERPRETATIONS:

- What is Jesus driving at when He says His true family are those who do His will?
- What is the importance and correlation of His reference to “my will”?
- What does it take to submit to God’s will? Luke 9:23

APPLICATION: GOD'S WILL TODAY

What are some of the issues of our day that stand out to you in contrast to the clear will of God?

What if anything concerns you as a Christian about those that are in clear contradiction to the will of God?

Now that there is a better understanding of the will of God in your life, share or write in the space below areas that could use more focus to conform to God's will more closely.

Conforming to something new isn't always easy; it's like exercise equipment, you have to use it to see any change but you know it's going to be uncomfortable. Pick one of the above areas that you think needs attention. Write or share what your plan is to conform to God's will more fully.



BELONG. GROW. REACH.