

Opposition to Christ Grows

(Mark 3)

S.R. Mark 3: 1- 6

3 – 8 – 2020

Read Mark 3:1–6

As their hatred of Jesus mounted, His enemies searched for every possible chance to attack Him, but He kept evading their traps.

- On this occasion, a man with a withered hand was in the synagogue. Jesus asked His opponents' opinion on whether or not to help the man, but they refused to reply.
- Jesus then told him to stretch his hand out.
 - Apparently He neither touched him nor did any other physical thing--He merely asked the man to reach his hand out.
 - When he did, it was healed.
 - Jesus' critics were furious and began plotting to assassinate Him.

Note -- To save a life or to kill: *In 3:4 Jesus asked His opponents: Should one save a life or kill on the Sabbath? They chose not to reply, which showed that they were not interested in truth, but only wanted to discredit Him. It is always easy to find fault, but it is much harder to give a positive recommendation. Normally Christ healed men by laying His hands on them or performing some other physical sign. If He had accompanied the healing by physical action in this case, they would have attacked Him for doing medical work on the Sabbath, something contrary to their tradition. This time, however, Jesus did nothing--He merely told the man to reach his hand out. Even Jesus' enemies did not believe it wrong to stretch out your hand on the Sabbath. Thus, He outsmarted His opponents; they were furious. When a man in an argument begins to get angry, it is a sure sign that he is losing. As it turned out, Jesus' enemies are the ones who plotted to kill on the Sabbath, because He had done good.*

1. How many sins did Jesus commit during His lifetime (see 2 Corinthians 5:21; 1 Peter 2:21,22; Hebrews 4:15)? Answer (give a number): _____.
2. The activities Jesus did on the sabbath violated what rules? a) only uninspired Jewish traditions; b) the 10 commands; c) the Law of Moses; d) the New Testament; e) all the preceding.
3. What did Jesus' enemies do after He had healed the man with the withered hand? Answer: They plotted to _____ Jesus.

Jesus' Popularity Grows

Read Mark 3:7–12

Though Jesus frequently tried to withdraw, people followed Him from everywhere. He continued teaching, healing and casting out demons. While neither the crowd nor the religious leaders seemed to have recognized His true identity, the demons confessed Jesus as the Son of God. He declined their testimony, however, since He did not want the recommendation of the Devil.

Jesus Appoints Twelve as Apostles

Read Mark 3:13–19

Jesus needed to train apprentices to represent Him and preach the gospel after His departure. He chose twelve of His followers for that job. The twelve He chose were an unlikely bunch: included were four fishermen, a tax collector, a revolutionary (Simon the "Zealot"), a skeptic (Thomas), and a traitor (Judas Iscariot). Jesus proved that He could work with and make something out of even the most unpromising material.

4. What work did Jesus empower the apostles to do (read Mark 3:15 and Matt. 10:1)? a) preach the gospel; b) heal diseases, c) cast out demons, d) all the preceding.

Accusations of Satanic Influence

Read Mark 3:20–30

While Jesus' family thought He had gone crazy, the Pharisees charged that He accomplished His work through the power of the devil. They were desperately seeking to discredit Him and diminish His influence. Jesus' devastating reply silenced them. First, He said that it would be unreasonable and even disastrous for the devil to begin attacking himself. Civil wars don't produce strong kingdoms. Second, Christ explained that He had come to rob the strong man (the devil), taking from him the souls that had been under his control. Logically, He would need to disarm Satan to accomplish this goal, so expelling demons was a predictable facet of His strategy. Finally, He warned of the serious consequences of hardening one's heart to the point of blaspheming the Holy Spirit. These scribes were demonstrating a malicious and possibly fatal attitude toward the work of God.

5. How did Jesus' enemies explain His ability to cast out demons? a) He did it by the power of the devil; b) He did it because He was the Son of God; c) it just seemed like He expelled demons but He really didn't; d) they didn't try to explain it.
6. What did Jesus say would happen to a kingdom that was divided against itself (v24)? Answer: He said that kingdom cannot _____.

Conclusion:

Acts 8:21 - 22

Col.1:13 - 14

Hebrews 2:10 - 15