

Mark



Lesson 3-Reform, Rage, Selection, and Rejection

Focus: Mark 3:1-35

1. Jesus and Sabbath Reform (v.1-5)

- a. *Jesus went into the synagogue on the Sabbath day and found a man there who was physically handicapped. **It was actually Christ's custom to go to the "church" (Synagogue) and worship God every Sabbath day.** Jesus set an example of Sabbath day worship for all of us (Luke 4:16). We, as Christians (followers of Christ), are to "Keep the Sabbath day Holy" according the commandment of God (Exodus 20:8-11; Luke 23:56; 1 Corinthians 7:19; James 2:10-12). The Ten Commandments stand today just the same as when they were given from Mount Sinai—they have not been changed a bit, and Christ expects us to follow and obey them (Matthew 5:17-19; John 14:15,21).*
- b. ***Christ was a Sabbath day reformer. Jesus did not need to, nor did he ever change the original Sabbath commandment of God. It stands with the same blessing and holiness as it did from Creation** (Genesis 2:1-3; Exodus 20:8-11); and, it is a perpetual reminder that God is our Creator. **WHAT JESUS FEARLESSLY AND BOLDLY STOOD OUT AGAINST were the pharisaical laws about keeping the Sabbath day.** They had made it a burden to keep the Sabbath day holy by many MAN-MADE LAWS and traditions which God had never intended. Jesus stood out against this, and He set the record straight—thus restoring the beauty of the Sabbath day from the Creation and His commandments. God calls us to "undo the heavy burdens...", to set souls free, and to "delight" ourselves "in the Lord" upon the Sabbath day (Isaiah 58:6,7, 12-14).*
- c. ***These men (the Pharisees) had no compassion for any sick or suffering soul. All they cared for were their written traditions which "bound heavy burdens" upon men** (Matthew 23:4). **THEY** had polluted the Sabbath and Jesus was angry to see the hardness of men's hearts in this regard! They sought with scrutinizing eyes to **find fault** with Jesus—but actually, the fault was in them. Jesus was angry about this. **Jesus showed by his teaching (Mark 2:27,28) and example, the true meaning and spirit of the Sabbath!!***

2. As the Pharisees got angry at Jesus for his example and teaching, Jesus left their sullen presence to continue His work faithfully (v.6-12). Sometimes, we also must simply go about the work which God has given us (and be faithful to God), even though others are unhappy with us for doing so.

- a. **(v.6)** Because of Christ's true teaching and example, the Pharisees decided to **mix their efforts with the political leaders of the day. They sought to mix their faulty religion with some kind of political strength to accomplish their plans.**
- b. **(v.7-12)** Jesus withdrew himself from the center of conflict in the cities and went toward the country side to continue his teaching. Great multitudes followed him for healing. So many that he had to take precautions to keep himself safe from the crowd and to continue His work of teaching.

3. **Jesus called together, selected, and appointed His twelve disciples (v.13-19, 20-21)** *These were to be especially trained for service by Him. They were to carry on His work after He had returned to heaven. **These were to be Christ's close assistants in His work!***
- a. Laboring with people can make a person SO busy! Jesus and his disciples could hardly even eat at times because of all the people coming and going. Some of Jesus' acquaintances from his younger life sought to stop him from this "misery," but to no need or avail.—Jesus already knew the need to protect he and his disciples from overwork.
4. **The Scribes and Pharisees made accusations against Jesus—thus rejecting Him and His work (in their own hearts and minds) (v.22-30)**
- a. These men did not like how Jesus had stood up against their false teachings and their earthly appointed "authority." (authority not from God). They disliked Jesus and so they were motivated to discredit Jesus and His work. **The religious leaders of Christ's day could NOT deny his miracle working power,** nor could they disprove His teachings from the Law (for Christ taught all things according to God's holy word). **Therefore, they attempted to discredit the man himself, and to explain away His miracles as if they were nothing.** They tried to discredit the work of God, by attempting to accredit the work to the working of Satan. *(They challenged and tried to explain away the work of God).* **In doing this, Jesus pointed out that they were in danger of rejecting the Holy Spirit and His work.** *(If they managed to blaspheme and to offend God's Spirit—to discredit and to send away the working of God Himself, then, there would be nothing more that God could possibly do for them—This is the sin against the Holy Spirit, and those who commit such a sin, by completely ignoring and rejecting the work of God's Spirit will be lost in eternal damnation-v.28,29).*
- b. **A point to keep in mind:** *These men were the trained religious leaders of the day!! They had been to ALL THE SCHOOLS!! They had their Ph.D's in religion—and yet, they were the ones who were fighting against the working of God. But "the common people" heard Jesus gladly (Mark 12:37). THIS SHOULD FOREVER BE a lesson to us. Do not just follow the minds of any well known, trained, and accomplished religious leader. If Satan misleads their minds, then he will mislead you and me through them if possible. We must follow the words of Jesus and the Bible above anything else. Let the Holy Spirit of God speak to your heart, and then follow the Bible's CLEAR teaching. DO NOT LET SOME RELIGIOUS LEADER or some popular but false teaching mislead you from Jesus!*
5. **Jesus loves and values family (v.31-35)** *But, the closest family to us who believe, are not always just our immediate blood related family. Our closest family is to be the family of God.—Those who follow the will of God from the heart and who, in like manner to us, obey His voice!! That will be our closest family of all, and all such will be in heaven together with us and Jesus. As we choose to follow Jesus' words, we will surely notice this phenomenon. **Love your family, but love your God even more;** and His family will be the closest to your heart. Jesus gives further principles upon this point in Matthew 10:34-40 (for further study).*

Question (s) for the Heart:

Is it your desire to follow Jesus and obey God's true teachings, rather than the corrupted, perverted, and false teachings of misguided men? _____