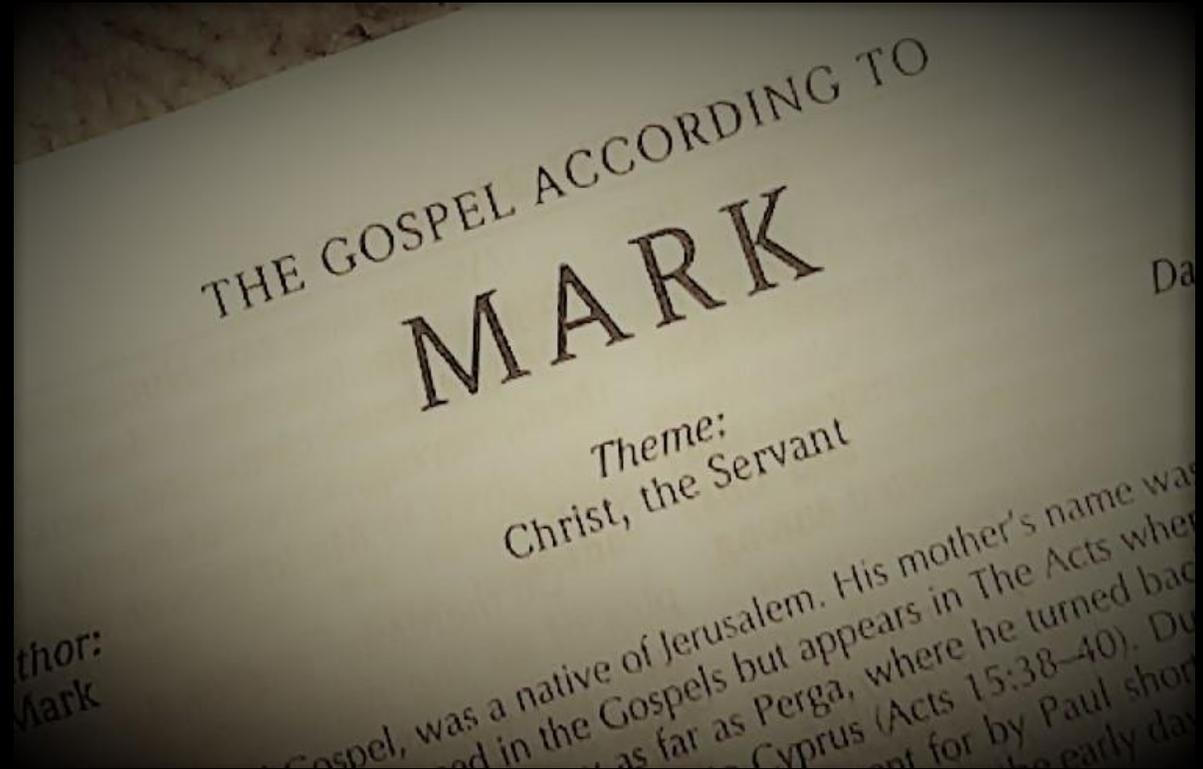


Verse by Verse

Mark 03



Mark 3 Introduction

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- **Author:** John Mark of Jerusalem, cousin of Barnabas, associate mainly of Peter.
- **Date:** The 60s AD, somewhere just before or around the deaths of Peter and Paul.
- **Location:** Most likely Rome.
- **Purpose:** Peter's age, imprisonment or death may have moved Mark to write, to preserve this message.

Mark 3 Introduction

- In this passage we will see division over Jesus begin.
- People will have to decide if he evil, if he is Lord, or if he is someone who should be ignored.
- Jesus, of course, is going to demand the highest level of loyalty to him that we can give.

Mark 3 Key Verses

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- Mark 3:33-35 (ESV)

³³ And he answered them, “Who are my mother and my brothers?” ³⁴ And looking about at those who sat around him, he said, “Here are my mother and my brothers! ³⁵ For whoever does the will of God, he is my brother and sister and mother.”

Mark 3 Outline

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1. Healing on the Sabbath 3:1-6
2. A Great Crowd 3:7-12
3. The Twelve Apostles 3:13-19
4. Christ's Family (Part 1) 3:20-21
5. Rejecting Jesus 3:22-30
6. Christ's Family (Part 2) 3:31-35

1. Healing on the Sabbath 3:1-6

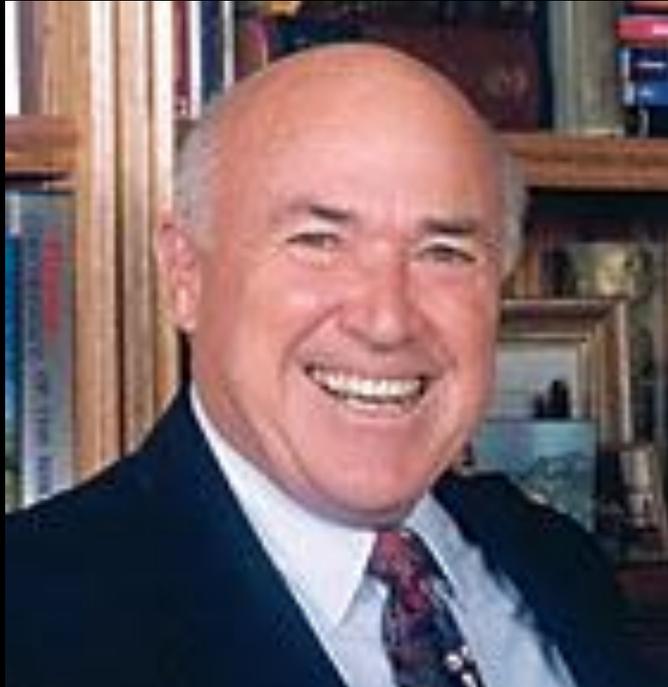
1. Healing on the Sabbath 3:1-6

- 2:1 withered hand The wording indicates that this is something that happened to him, not a birth-related thing.
- 2:2 they watched Jesus ... so that they might accuse him.
- In this passage, “they” refers back to the scribes and Pharisees of the previous chapter – and v.6 here.
- Their motive is only to accuse. They do not question Jesus’ ability to heal.

1. Healing on the Sabbath 3:1-6

- It is not in the Bible, but someone at some time decided that healing was work, unless it was a matter of life and death.
- Jesus evidently disagrees, but his healing the man actually brings the man to a point of decision.
- His hand is “withered,” so he cannot stretch it out.

1. Healing on the Sabbath 3:1-6



Jesus gives us many commands that we are unable to do, in our own flesh. We can either argue with Him, telling Him all the reasons why we are disabled from doing what He wants us to do, or we can obey by faith. If He commands us to do something, we can do it, with His help. ¹

*– Pastor Chuck Smith (1927-2013)
Calvary Chapel Costa Mesa*

1. Healing on the Sabbath 3:1-6

- Sometimes when we are serving the Lord, we have to be willing to do things that we don't think we can do.
- He may ask us to do what is impossible for us.
- That way God gets the glory.

2. A Great Crowd 3:7-12

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- 3:12 He strictly ordered them not to make him known.
- Jesus didn't need that kind of publicity.
- Overall, Jesus was not hungry for publicity.
- He was able to attract crowds, but he was never swayed by them.

2. A Great Crowd 3:7-12

- 3:12 He strictly ordered them not to make him known.
- We often mistakenly think that where the biggest crowd is, there God is working in the biggest way.
- Jesus could easily move between a big crowd, a smaller group and a single individual, without missing a beat.

3. The Twelve Apostles 3:13-19

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- Jesus called the Twelve by name to be apostles.
- He call us by name as well and gives each of us a special ministry as part of his church.
- It is important that we respond with willing and obedient hearts to that calling.

4. Christ's Family (Part 1) 3:20-21

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- Mark gives us a number of sandwich stories.
- He starts one story, interrupts it with another, and then goes back to his original subject.
- In these verses we see Christ's family questioning his public ministry.

5. Rejecting Jesus 3:22-30

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- For some reason it is advantageous for demons to take control of individuals.
- This might just be evidence of their hatred of the entire human race.
- God loves us, so Satan and his hordes hate us in return.

5. Rejecting Jesus 3:22-30

- 3:23 How can Satan cast out Satan?
- The logic of the scribes is questionable, as Jesus points out.
- Demons want to take control of people.
- If that is a win for them, why cast them out, which would be a loss for the demon side?
- Still, it was a persistent accusation.

5. Rejecting Jesus 3:22-30

On the eve of the Passover Yeshu [the Nazarean] was hanged ... because he has practiced sorcery and enticed Israel to apostasy ... But since nothing was brought forward in his favor he was hanged on the eve of the Passover [and on the eve of the Sabbath] ... Was he not a Mesith [enticer], concerning whom Scripture says, Neither shalt thou spare, neither shalt thou conceal?

– Babylonian Talmud, Sanhedrin 43a (300 – 500 AD)

5. Rejecting Jesus 3:22-30

- 3:29 blasphemy against the Holy Spirit
- Some people, especially newer believers, wonder if perhaps they have committed this sin.
- If the thought bothers you, then no.
- If it doesn't, then that is when you need to worry.

5. Rejecting Jesus 3:22-30



People who deny the reality of God's presence in Jesus' ministry have nowhere to go when they need forgiveness for their sins. ²

*– Eckhard Schnabel,
Gordon Conwell Theological Seminary*

6. Christ's Family (Part 2) 3:31-35

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- In that culture, loyalty to family was probably the highest loyalty one could have.
- Christ's family does not approve of what he is doing, but he explains that he has closer still ties than blood.
- Those ties are with all who do **the will of God**.

6. Christ's Family (Part 2) 3:31-35

- John 6:28-29 (ESV)

²⁸ Then they said to him, “What must we do, to be doing the works of God?” ²⁹ Jesus answered them, “This is the work of God, that you believe in him whom he has sent.”

6. Christ's Family (Part 2) 3:31-35

- And yet, at this point, Christ's family had yet to truly believe.

6. Christ's Family (Part 2) 3:31-35

This segment is put together to demonstrate the extent to which Jesus was rejected. The combination of being misunderstood by family members and subjected to malicious denunciation by his foes underlines his total rejection.

*– Victor Abajide Cole,
Africa International University, Kenya*



6. Christ's Family (Part 2) 3:31-35

- The passage also illustrate the kind of loyalty Jesus commands from us.
- He demands our highest level of devotion, higher than our natural family.
- The family of God is the most important family we have because it a sharing in the very life of God imparted to us.

6. Christ's Family (Part 2) 3:31-35

- Luke 14:25-27 (ESV)

²⁵ Now great crowds accompanied him, and he turned and said to them, ²⁶ “If anyone comes to me and does not hate his own father and mother and wife and children and brothers and sisters, yes, and even his own life, he cannot be my disciple. ²⁷ Whoever does not bear his own cross and come after me cannot be my disciple.

C. S. Lewis and Our Dire Need to Make a Choice about Jesus

C. S. Lewis and Our Dire Need to Make a Choice about Jesus



- In his classic *Mere Christianity*, (Book 2, Chapter 3), Lewis gives us three choices, sometimes called a “trilemma.”

I am trying here to prevent anyone saying the really foolish thing that people often say about Him: ‘I’m ready to accept Jesus as a great moral teacher, but I don’t accept His claim to be God.’ That is the one thing we must not say. A man who was merely a man and said the sort of things Jesus said would not be a great moral teacher.

C. S. Lewis and Our Dire Need to Make a Choice about Jesus



- In his classic *Mere Christianity*, (Book 2, Chapter 3), Lewis gives us three choices, sometimes called a “trilemma.”

He would either be a lunatic—on a level with the man who says he is a poached egg—or else he would be the Devil of Hell. You must make your choice. Either this man was, and is, the Son of God: or else a madman or something worse.

C. S. Lewis and Our Dire Need to Make a Choice about Jesus



- In his classic *Mere Christianity*, (Book 2, Chapter 3), Lewis gives us three choices, sometimes called a “trilemma.”

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 with any patronising nonsense about His being a great human teacher. He has not left that open to us. He did not intend to.

Our Need to Make a Choice about Jesus

- With complete respect to “Jack,” as his friends called him, I would add a couple of options.
- He pretty much addresses these elsewhere in his writing.
 1. Jesus was some kind of guru, and the church has misrepresented him.
 2. Jesus never really existed and the church just made him up.

Our Need to Make a Choice about Jesus

- We have to point out the guru or fairy tale options because they are easy for people today to believe.
- Skeptics today simply take the accusations that originally came against Jesus and throw them at the church.
- “Christians are crazy, stupid, etc.” or “Christians are evil.”
- The problem is, no one in the ancient world ever doubted his existence and they inadvertently seem to agree with Jack.

Our Need to Make a Choice about Jesus

- Christ's own family in this passage worried that he was "out of his mind." (v.21)
- The scribes were convinced he was evil and in operating in the power of Satan. (v.22)

Our Need to Make a Choice about Jesus

- But what do we think?
- Are we going to accuse Jesus and/or all his followers ever of simply being wrong, or evil or stupid?
- Or are we prepared to endure the rejection that Christ endured – by either family and friends or the religious elite for our faith in him?

Mark 3 A Prayer

Mark 3 A Prayer

- Heavenly Father,
- We see Jesus having to endure being misunderstood by his family and accused of being evil by the religious leaders of his day.
- We do not want to make those mistakes. We realize that if we reject Jesus, then there is no payment available for our sins against you.
- Our relationship with you, through Christ, is and always needs to be the most important relationship in our lives.

Mark 3 A Prayer

- It makes us your family and gives us the truest family we will ever have – the family of God.
- Help us to be obedient and willing to do your will. Help us to respond well to whatever calling you place upon our lives.
- And help us to see Jesus as Lord, the one who truly deserves our worship and complete obedience.
- In Christ,
- Amen.

Mark 2 References

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3. Victor Abajide Cole in *Africa Bible Commentary: A One-Volume Commentary Written by 70 African Scholars*. (Zondervan. Kindle Edition), 1201