



Sermon Series: His Power

Sermon Title: Jesus' Power Over Distortions

Date: 11/12/2023

Mark 3:1-6

A “distortion” is actively taking something from its true, purposeful nature and changing, corrupting, or twisting it into something else. In life, many distortions are physical/health, emotional, or relational in nature.

Big Idea: Ask Jesus to straighten the distortions in your life.

This passage shows us at least three distortions being corrected.

Solomon's Temple was destroyed by the Babylonians in 586 BC – therefore, worship in a synagogue took place almost 600 years before Jesus. By the time Jesus walks into this synagogue (**Mark 3:1**), it is THE local place to worship, pray, and study what we would call the Old Testament.

The first distortion Jesus deals with isn't the man's hand. **Mark 3:1-2**

1. PERSONAL MOTIVATIONS

The religious leaders were so personally twisted that their only motivation was to find some way to incriminate Jesus. In the parallel gospel passage to this one, Luke 6:8 tells us that Jesus knew their thoughts. Jesus shows himself to be God and knows their hearts are hard.

What motivations do you have when you are interacting with other people? Is it always for their well-being, or are you looking to justify your own actions or for someone to blame or accuse? Are there any thoughts or motivations you want Jesus to straighten and make whole? Is there a person in your life whose heart has become twisted against them? What would it take to soften your heart towards them? What within you has become hard and needs Jesus to soften?

2. GOD'S DESIRES

Matthew 12:11-12

Sabbath! – commanded by God but rapidly distorted by man. The people are more concerned about eliminating Jesus and keeping the Sabbath.

Jesus gets right to the problem with a simple question: On the Sabbath, is it lawful to DO GOOD or HARM, to SAVE or KILL? Healing the man's hand – or ministering to someone's need has nothing to do with the Sabbath! Jesus is both angry and heartbroken.

Spiritual distortions come in all shapes and sizes:

- Self condemnation vs. (It's God alone who can condemn someone)
- Self-destruction vs. (God's desire to see you saved by Him)
- Being Condemning ... Casting God's Commandments on someone else vs. (starting first with the Love and sacrifice Jesus made for you).
- Self-imposed ignorance of God vs. (all the ways God makes himself and his ways known through his Spirit-filled word)

3. PHYSICAL DISTORTION

Mark 3:5-6

Jesus calls the man and invites him to come from the back and stand with Him. He told the man not to hide back there anymore.

Then and only then, after the man stands with Jesus, the words from the master come: Stretch out your hand. The man OBEYS – and the healing is made complete. But so is the plan for Jesus' death and resurrection.

Personal, Spiritual, Physical, what kind of healing do you need? Where are you distorted in a way that keeps you far from other people or far from a personal relationship with God?

Come and Stand here!

Is Jesus calling you to come stand with Him?

Are you ready for the first time ever to say "yes!" ?

Are you ready to stop wandering through life and walk back to him?

The man needed physical healing – is that your plea?

The first step for a

Personal, Spiritual, or Physical Healing is to COME TO JESUS!

Then, see what he will do.

Discussion Questions:

- **What about the sermon stuck with you this week? What part challenged your thinking?**
- **What do you think was the turning point in the lives of the religious leaders that led them to have hearts of stone?**
- **Do you see spiritual distortions in people around you? Do you confront or attempt to correct them? Explain**
- **Are your motivations often selfish or selfless when talking to other people? Explain**
- **Where are you distorted in a way that keeps you far from other people or far from a personal relationship with God? What will help you overcome them?**