

INTRO: Recap Mark 2:18-28. The attack on Jesus by the religious community has already begun...

I. The Crippled Restored. (v. 1-6)

A. Verse 1

1. *"And He entered again into the synagogue."*

- a. This is Jesus' second time to the synagogue. The first time, He taught with such authority, and then cast out demons out of a man. (1:21-29) And here He is again coming into their synagogue.
- b. I wonder what was going on in the minds of the people that were there the last time Jesus was there.

2. *"There was a man with a withered hand."*

- a. In the Greek, this is a phrase that shows that it was something that had happened at one time, maybe an accident or disease that he got, that withered his hand.
- b. Luke tells us that it was his right hand. (Luke 6:6)¹

B. Verse 2

1. *"And they watched Him, whether He would heal him on the Sabbath day; that they might accuse Him."*

- a. Have you ever walked into a room, and everyone was watching you? It's kind of a funny feeling.
- b. As soon as He entered the synagogue He became the center of attention, why?

1) Because there was a man there with a withered hand.

2) In their minds they automatically connected Jesus with the man with the greatest need.

a) This was a true evaluation of Jesus nature.

b) The enemies of Christ sometimes knew Him better than His own followers.

1. They knew He would be drawn to this man's need.
2. They knew when He entered a crowd He was always interested in helping the most needy one there.

¹ Wuest, Kenneth.

3. They knew that He could not stand in the face of human blight without helping.
- c) We often feel the opposite.
 1. We look at our failures, our weakness, the blighted area of our life and we feel surely God is not interested in me.
 - d) Some have thought, "I'm worse off than anyone here. Jesus isn't interested in me. Look at those happy loving people, I know the Lord loves them, but how could He love me? My life is so messed up. I have been so crippled by my flesh, withered hand nothing, my whole life is a disaster area."
 1. Wrong! You are the one He is most interested in. As Jesus is also with us here this morning, you are the one He is most interested in.
 - c. They watched to see if He would heal on the Sabbath day.
 - 1) According to their interpretation of the law, to heal on the Sabbath unlawful.
 - 2) You could only take measures to preserve life, nothing toward healing.
 - d. There was this man that was crippled *physically*, but here are these Pharisees that are crippled *spiritually*.**
 - 1) Their religion was crippling their walk with God.**
 - e. Some suggest that maybe the Pharisees took this man out of the community and planted him right there in the middle knowing that Jesus would heal him.

C. Verses 3-5

1. "Stand forth" – Gr. lit. "Arise in the midst."
 - a. So Jesus is saying, "Stand in the middle of everybody so they can see you."
 - b. For the most part, it's very uncomfortable for people that are disabled to be the center of attention in a crowd.
2. They were wondering what He would do.
 - a. He did not make them wait to find out.
 - b. He faced the issue immediately. "Stand up."
3. He asked them two questions that immediately revealed the folly of their tradition.
 - a. "Is it lawful to do good or evil on the Sabbath?"

- 1) It is never lawful to do evil.
 - 2) It would be evil to leave this man in his helpless condition if you could heal.
 - 3) Jesus is saying, "Do you want to cripple his other hand?"
- b. *"Is it lawful to save a life or destroy it?"*
- 1) It is never lawful to destroy a life.
 - 2) It is always lawful to save.
 - 3) In verse 6, we see that they wanted to kill Jesus.
 - a) After He said this, "they held their peace." Maybe they were convicted.

4. *"And He looked on them with anger."*

- a. The word "*anger*" also speaks of "*violent passion*."²
 - 1) God is a passionate God.
 - a) He passionately hates sin.
 - b) He passionately loves you.
- b. An emotion rarely displayed by Jesus.
 - 1) Never was this said concerning helpless sinner.
 - a) Woman of Samaria.
 - b) Woman taken in adultery.
 - 2) Only for those who through a religious guise seek to hinder or stop His work on needy lives.
 - a) They'd say things like:
 1. You can't pray for the sick.
 2. Our tradition says that miracles stopped with the apostles.

5. *"Stretch forth your hand."*

a. Notice this was an impossible command.

- 1) At this point, the man has a few options:
 - a) Argue with the command.
 - b) Give all the reasons why he can't.
 - c) Or obey the command.

² Strong's Definitions

2) At this point, let us imagine that you were in the synagogue that Sabbath morning.

a) Is there anything in your life crippling you?

1. Bad habit?
2. Sin?
3. Painful memories?
4. Bad attitude?

b. He found that when he chose to obey, all that was necessary was given to him in that moment.

c. Jesus wishes to face that withered area in your life today.

- 1) That ugly thing that has defeated you.
- 2) Stretch forth your hand.
- 3) The Holy Spirit will give to you all that you need to be free and to be victorious.

6. The result of obedience – “his hand was restored whole as the other.”

a. A change from weakness to power; death to life.

b. This man’s discovery:

1) When I chose to obey the impossible command, all that I need is immediately given to me to obey it.

c. The Lord is interested in all the crippled areas in your life.

- 1) That habit in your flesh that defeats you.
- 2) That situation where you can't find victory.
- 3) Your place of weakness.
- 4) He is saying to you now, “stretch forth your hand.”

a) “Be delivered now.”

b) “Have complete victory.”

c) “Be free now.”

1. “But Lord, you don't know how long I've struggled.”

2. “How hard I've tried.”

3. There you are arguing.

5) Don't argue with Him, obey Him.

a) The moment you in your heart will to obey Him you will discover new power, new life, new capacities, all that you need, and you can obey, you can do it.

D. Verse 6

1. "Pharisees." – The religious party.
2. "Herodians." – The political party that supported King Herod's dynasty.
 - a. **Even enemies will unite against Jesus.**
 - b. **Blind religion can make people want to destroy it when God works.**

3. Q = Why would men want to destroy Jesus?

- a. In the case before us, it was He was violating their traditions (the Sabbath day traditions).
 - 1) It is amazing how deeply rooted traditions can become, and how great a control they can have over the way we do things.
 - 2) Traditions are one of the last things we want to give up.
 - 3) Jesus often spoke out against their traditions. (Mark 7)
- b. There are those today who feel that they must destroy Jesus, and have established diabolical plots to do so.
 - 1) Hollywood.
 - 2) ACLU.
 - 3) Liberal legislators in Washington.
 - 4) Bill Maher.
 - 5) The gay community.
 - 6) Etc...

4. In the story we have before us we note that it was not a rational motive to destroy Jesus, but emotional and spiritual.

- a. Today it is the same, the hatred of Jesus is not logical, you cannot point to the teachings of Jesus and find fault, you must admit that He was right, and what He taught is good, yet people hate Him so much they seek to destroy Him.
5. **Who is it that seeks to destroy Jesus?...** Men with evil hearts (including *religious* people).
 6. **Why do they seek to destroy Him?...** Because they love darkness rather than light because their deeds are evil.

II. The Servant Does Great Things. (v. 7-12)

A. Verses 7-8

1. Notice the word "great" in these two verses.

- a. Jesus was doing "great" things, and a "great" multitude followed Him.
- b. Jesus said, "*Verily, Verily, I say unto you, He that believeth on me, the works that I do shall he do also; and greater works than these shall he do; because I go unto my Father.*" (John 14:12)
 - 1) The Lord wants to do great things through you. He wants to use you to do great things.

B. Verses 9-10

1. Just picture the thousands of people at the seashore, and Jesus is in the little boat. And there was a little slope, and if you go there today, you could hear from a ½ mile away a *whisper*. So it was a perfect little amphitheater.
2. I picture all the people clinging to Him and pinching Him, so He hurries and gets into the boat. Then, He gets in the boat and He's looking over the crowd at all the people.

C. Verses 11-12

1. **Q** = Why didn't Jesus want the demons to proclaim who He was?
 - a. Satan will always proclaim some truth, and then twist it down the line because he is the father of lies (John 8:44).
 - b. If Jesus allows these demons to proclaim who He is, then later on they will start mixing their message.
 - c. Later on, Paul would always do whatever he could to keep the purity of the Gospel. (Galatians 1:8-9)

III. Ordaining the Twelve. (v. 13-19)

A. Verse 13

1. "*And he goeth up into a mountain,----- and calleth unto him whom he would...*"
 - a. **NOTE:** In Luke's Gospel ([Luke 6:12](#)), it says that Jesus went out into a mountain to pray, and continue all night in prayer to God. And then when it was day, He called unto Him His disciples!

B. Verse 14-15

1. Jesus just looks out sovereignly and says, "I want this one, and this one, etc..." And He chose 12 men to be close to Him. They didn't

choose. It was God's choosing them. They were just seeing the mystery of this man and what was going on.

2. **NOTE: There are THREE things here that are a picture for US to Apply as His disciples:**

a. 1) "be with Him" = **Spend time with Jesus!**

b. 2) "preach" = **Preach Jesus!**

1) **By spending time with Jesus, I will be filled with the Love of God to share Jesus with others!** Q = How? By loving people and telling them why you're a Christian!

a) John 13:35 "By this shall all men know that ye are **My** disciples, if ye have **love** one to another."

2) **KEY:** You will impact more people with the love of God than with your knowledge of the Word of God or with philosophical arguments. **Otherwise you'll be like a porcupine: a lot of fine points, but nobody wants to get close to you!**

c. 3) "power" = **Experience the Power of Jesus!**

1) When I step out and share my faith, I will experience the Power of Jesus! Even if people reject the gospel, I get built up knowing that the Lord gave me the faith to share! It always builds my faith!

C. Versus 16-19.

1. **Simon** = "Hearing" **Peter** = "Rock"

a. **NOTE:** It's interesting that his name was "hearing" because he would talk all the time and put his foot in his mouth! Ha!

2. "**Andrew**" = "Manly"

a. **NOTE:** Andrew was an Evangelist! It takes a Real Man or Woman to share the gospel!

3. "**Matthew**" = same as *Levi* in Chapter 2 = "a gift of God"

a. He was a tax-collector Hated by the Jews!

4. "**Thaddaeus**" = "Judas, **not** Iscariot"

5. "**Simon the Canaanite**" = "Simon the Zealot"

a. The Zealots were a political party that HATED the Roman Government! So imagine what he thought of Matthew before he followed Jesus!

- b. **NOTE:** There is Unity in Christ! No matter what our background, and we can love anybody!
- c. **KEY: If we talk about what we believe, we'll have disunity, but if we talk about Who we believe, we will have complete unity!**
 - 1) ILLUST = One of my best friends was going through a lot of theology on Calvinism, and was starting to buy into it for a while, and when he was, we would get into some heated arguments. And finally, we stopped talking about what we believed, and started talking about Who we believed. And on that ground we could have fellowship.

6. "**Judas Iscariot**"

- a. **NOTE:** Jesus chose somebody that He knew would betray Him! He loved Judas!
- b. **NOTE:** The name "*Iskariot*" is "*IshKerioth*", "**man of Kerioth**", a town of Judea (Joshua 15:25). This distinguishes him from the other Judas of the twelve.

7. "*and they went into **an house**...*"

- a. **NOTE:** It could be Jesus' house. Lit. "*...and they went **home**.*"
- b. **Ephesians 3:17** "*That Christ may dwell in your hearts by faith...*"
 - 1) "*dwell*" = "*settle down and be at home*"
 - 2) **Q** = Does Jesus feel at home in your heart? Are there areas that You won't let Him come in?

IV. The Unpardonable Sin. (v. 20-30)

A. Is Jesus Crazy? (v. 20-21)

- 1. "*...His friends...said, "He is beside himself."*"
 - a. **Q = Have your friends ever said that about you?**
 - b. "*friends*" = "*those from the side of him*" = It could be His family that is being spoken of here. Don't know for sure.

B. The Scribes' Accusation. (v. 22)

- 1. "*Beelzebub*" = "*Lord of the flies*"

C. Jesus' Rebuttal. (v. 23-27)

D. Blasphemy of the Holy Spirit! (v. 28-29)

1. What the Unpardonable Sin is Not.

- a. It is not a single action you can do in a moment.
- b. It is not a single action of...
 - 1) Lying – Abraham lied about Sarah.
 - 2) Adultery – David.
 - 3) Murder – Thief on the cross.
 - 4) Cursing – Peter.
- c. ***All*** manner of sin and blasphemy shall be forgiven...
 - 1) The apostle John said, *"If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us [our] sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness."* (1 John 1:9)
 - 2) **Illust.** – When I was a kid, I remember saying that I hated Jesus and I hated God. And that haunted me for a long time when I heard of the blasphemy of the Holy Spirit, but then I read these promises of Jesus in the Bible, and now I have something to hold on to.

2. What is "Blasphemy of the Holy Spirit"?

- a. "blasphemy" – Gr. βλασφημία *blasphēmia* – "to speak reproachfully; to rail at; revile"; "**malicious representation**"
 - 1) The O.T. penalty for blasphemy was stoning! (Lev. 24:16)
 - 2) Cf. Revelation 13:5-6; 16:9; 17:3.
- b. **DEFINITION: Blasphemy of the Holy Spirit is a malicious, persistent, rejection of, and attributing to Satan, the work of the Holy Spirit!**
 - 1) The Work of the Holy Spirit.
 - a) John 15:26; 16:7-9.
 1. To testify of Jesus.
 2. To convince the world to believe in Jesus!
 - b) **KEY: To reject Jesus Christ is to reject the work of the Holy Spirit, thus for those that reject Jesus Christ, they are on that path that will lead to the unpardonable sin!**
 1. **If a person dies rejecting Jesus Christ, there is no forgiveness, "not in this world or in the world to come."**

- a. Hebrews 9:27 says, *"And as it is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment:"*
- 2) After persistently rejecting the testimony of the Holy Spirit, a person can get to a point of no return.
 - a) Genesis 6:3 says, *"My Spirit shall not always strive with man..."*
 - 1. This is a blessing and a curse.
 - a. Blessing that He does strive with man.
 - b. Curse that a time can come that He ceases.
 - b) [John 12:39](#). *"They **could not** believe..."*

3. Can a True Christian commit the Unpardonable Sin?...

a. NO!

- 1) The apostle John wrote, *"But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, [even] to them that believe on his name:"* (John 1:12)
- 2) Jesus said, *"All that the Father giveth me shall come to me; and him that cometh to me I will in no wise cast out."* (John 6:37)
- 3) He also said, *"That whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have eternal life. For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life. For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be saved." (John 3:15-17)*
- 4) Paul, in writing to the Romans, said, *"For what saith the scripture? Abraham believed God, and it was counted unto him for righteousness. Now to him that worketh is the reward not reckoned of grace, but of debt. But to him that worketh not, but believeth on him that justifieth the ungodly, his faith is counted for righteousness." (Romans 4:3-5)*
- 5) Paul also wrote, *"[There is] therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit." (Romans 8:1)*
- 6) He also said, *"**For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved.**" (Romans 10:13)*

- 7) Paul the apostle wrote, *"In whom ye also [trusted], after that ye heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation: in whom also after that ye believed, ye were sealed with that holy Spirit of promise,"* (Ephesians 1:13)
- 8) The apostle John wrote in his 1st epistle, *"And hereby we know that we are of the truth, and shall assure our hearts before him. For if our heart condemn us, God is greater than our heart, and knoweth all things."* (1 John 3:19-20)
- 9) John also wrote, *"He that believeth on the Son of God hath the witness in himself: he that believeth not God hath made him a liar; because he believeth not the record that God gave of his Son."* (1 John 5:10)

a) Paul said something similar in **Romans 8:16** when he wrote, *"The Spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God:"*

10) **QUESTION: Has the Holy Spirit told you that you are a child of God?...**

a) **KEY: If you ever worry that you have committed the Unpardonable Sin, I want you to ask yourself 2 questions...**

1. **"When Jesus died on the cross, how many of your sins were still future?"**
2. **"If I'm worried about this, why am I worried?"**

a. **Remember the definition of what the blasphemy of the Holy Spirit is... "malicious, persistent rejection of Jesus Christ".**

b. **If you're worried, you have nothing to worry about!**

b. However, a word of Warning!...

- 1) **Hebrews 2:1-3** – Drifting away.
- 2) **Hebrews 6:4-6** – Apostasy.

a) **KEY: Drifting can lead a person to Apostasy!**

1. **Don't drift towards the things of the world! Etc...**

4. KEY: Who was Jesus Addressing?...

a. Not His people, but ***the unbelieving Pharisees!***