

Mark 3 “The Outlaw Servant”

Please stand and open your bibles to Mark 3:1-6

A reminder of the theme of Mark and the theme verse...

Mark 10:45

“For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many.”

Mark presents Jesus as a man of action. Walking the walk and not just talking the talk. We are in chapter 3, and we are already in the first half of His ministry. Today will be the point of final rejection by the religious leaders to Jesus being the Messiah and will make Him the “Outlaw Servant”. This started last week with the healing of the paralytic and ending with this statement...

Mark 2:27-28

And He said to them, “The Sabbath was made for man, and not man for the Sabbath. Therefore the Son of Man is also Lord of the Sabbath.”

All eyes on the outlaw

Mark 3:1-6

They had gotten so hardened by their traditions and man-made regulations that they could not see the truth. They did not come to hear from God or to fellowship with the saints. No, they came to find fault. I wonder how many would come into this church

with the same attitude? If we are coming to church with a judgmental heart, can we really expect to hear anything from God?

James 1:7-8

For let not that man suppose that he will receive anything from the Lord; he is a double-minded man, unstable in all his ways.

This was a problem even in Paul's day when he wrote this...

Ephesians 4:29-31

Let no corrupt word proceed out of your mouth, but what is good for necessary edification, that it may impart grace to the hearers. And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption. Let all bitterness, wrath, anger, clamor, and evil speaking be put away from you, with all malice.

If you are not careful you will be guilty of murder! There is another important warning in scripture...

Hebrews 3:7-8, 15, 4:7, Psalm 95:7-8

"Today, if you will hear His voice, do not harden your hearts as in the rebellion."

Their hardness got so bad that two groups that would never have gotten together are now plotting his death. The Herodians were a Jewish sect that made friends with Rome. They supported Herod and would have been despised by the Pharisees.

The Outlaw and His followers

Mark 3:7-12

This is another example of Jesus doing the work of the Messiah that was told on the Prophets.

Isaiah 61:1-2

The Spirit of the Lord God is upon Me, because the Lord has anointed Me to preach good tidings to the poor; He has sent Me to heal the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and the opening of the prison to those who are bound; to proclaim the acceptable year of the Lord.

The Outlaw's Apostles

Mark 3:13-19

The first thing we see is how a calling from God works. He called them and then they came to Him. I wonder how many in life have been called but never responded? What was their first order? To Preach! That is the main thing. All of the other stuff came along after the main thing is done. These powers that Jesus gave to them were for them only. I know that we have a whole group in Christendom that says we have "New" Apostles and Prophets that have the same power. Sorry, the Bible doesn't allow you to say that. Notice also the changing of names. I wonder what Jesus will call me? What about you?

Revelation 2:17

“He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. To him who overcomes I will give some of the hidden manna to eat. And I will give him a white stone, and on the stone a new name written which no one knows except him who receives it.”

That is something to think about as we desire to serve Him.

Jesus the Outlaw

Mark 3:20-30

This is probably in the second year of His ministry. The crowds have grown so big that they couldn't even take care of simple things like eating. Notice all of this is happening when a group has responded to the call to ministry. Jesus had set in order the twelve that had been called to do the work. They have their marching orders and given the power and authority to do it. Everything seemed to be put in order and should run smoothly, right? No. Always expect opposition. Life will get super busy, people will say you are crazy, and the work you are doing is not of God. It is a pattern that the devil will use and has not changed. When you expect it, you can manage it. Notice it does not even phase Jesus. Verse 20 connects with 19 that they had went into a house and the crowds came a knocking. In the middle of all the busy ministry came “His People” that would be His family that we see in just a minute. Mom, brothers and sisters thought He was nuts and were trying to grab Him and take Him home. Maybe they wanted an intervention or something. Then to make matters worse here come the scribes from Jerusalem with an answer to

the whole thing. Not only is He out of His mind but the work He is doing is of the Devil himself!

Try to visualize this as Jesus is surrounded by needy people. Healing this one and delivering that one and stops to look over the crowd to see his family and the scribes and all the commotion. He stops and speaks to them in Parables. In verse 27 He puts them in their place. This is a declaration that He is the power greater than Satan. He is God the Son. He has come to serve man. He will not allow anything to stop His mission. He then puts them in their place in verses 28-30.

This is of course one of the areas of concern for many Christians. They read this and say things like “I knew I could lose my salvation!” or “How do I know if I have committed this?”.

Can * you Commit the Blasphemy of the Spirit?

In order to answer this, we must first look at the context that this is happening in. The people that accusing Jesus of doing works that are attributed to Satan have completely rejected who He is. They do not believe that He is the Messiah and will not change their minds.

Jesus would call them this in...

John 8:44

You are of your father the devil, and the desires of your father you want to do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and does not

stand in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaks a lie, he speaks from his own resources, for he is a liar and the father of it.

So, we see that Jesus is referring to these men that had said that the work of God was the work of Satan. Jesus was doing His work by the power of the Holy Spirit, and they said it was the devil. Let me ask you, can this be done today? And can someone who is born again do this?

The reason this cannot be is that the Holy Spirit has a different role after the ascension of Christ. Remember the Holy Spirit...

John 16:8

And when He has come, He will convict the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment

John 15:26

But when the Helper comes, whom I shall send to you from the Father, the Spirit of truth who proceeds from the Father, He will testify of Me.

This means that the only way you could possibly commit this sin would be to reject the testimony of Jesus Christ. The only unforgivable sin in this age is to reject Jesus Christ. If you have not done this than you have not and can never Blaspheme the Holy Spirit.

John 3:18

He who believes in Him is not condemned; but he who does not believe is condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God.

The Family of the Outlaw

Mark 3:31-35

We see that the family was still outside trying to get His attention. We saw earlier that they thought He was out of His mind. Don't be surprised if those closest to you think you have gone off the deep end because you decided to get serious about Jesus. Jesus told us...

Matthew 10:34-36

“Do not think that I came to bring peace on earth. I did not come to bring peace but a sword. For I have come to ‘set a man against his father, a daughter against her mother, and a daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law’; and ‘a man’s enemies will be those of his own household.’”

As a follower of Jesus, you will find those here in this room will be you true family.

Ephesians 3:14-19

For this reason I bow my knees to the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, from whom the whole family in heaven and earth is named, that He would grant you, according to the riches of His glory, to be strengthened with might through His Spirit in the inner man, that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith; that

you, being rooted and grounded in love, may be able to comprehend with all the saints what is the width and length and depth and height—to know the love of Christ which passes knowledge; that you may be filled with all the fullness of God.

Jesus is showing His followers who are the ones that are really part of His family. These are His fellow outlaws. An outlaw is someone who lives outside the laws of the land. They are someone who is the outcast of culture and society. Living as nomads in the deserts and wilderness and sometimes wanted by the authorities. This is the calling of a true follower of Jesus. You are now an outlaw of the world. There is no place for you anymore. Jesus has been making this clear to us. If you want to live you must die, those who rule must be the slave, the first become the last. You must give and expect nothing in return. We are to love our enemies and be willing to go to jail for what we believe in, not rebelling or fighting back. There is no better title for us than that, an outlaw for Jesus. And how does one show this allegiance? The last verse of chapter 3 tells us...

Mark 3:35

For whoever does the will of God is My brother and My sister and mother.

There are many who say they are for Jesus but are they? If they were outlawed today, would they still follow Him? Would you be an outlaw for Jesus? Then do what He says!

Luke 6:46-49

“But why do you call Me ‘Lord, Lord,’ and not do the things which I say? 47 Whoever comes to Me, and hears My sayings and does them, I will show you whom he is like: 48 He is like a man building a house, who dug deep and laid the foundation on the rock. And when the flood arose, the stream beat vehemently against that house, and could not shake it, for it was founded on the rock. 49 But he who heard and did nothing is like a man who built a house on the earth without a foundation, against which the stream beat vehemently; and immediately it fell. And the ruin of that house was great.”

The * wise do what He says!

John 5:24

Most assuredly, I say to you, he who hears My word and believes in Him who sent Me has everlasting life, and shall not come into judgment, but has passed from death into life.

Outlaws * believe in Him!

Luke 22:19

And He took bread, gave thanks and broke it, and gave it to them, saying, “This is My body which is given for you; do this in remembrance of Me.”

Luke 22:20

Likewise He also took the cup after supper, saying, “This cup is the new covenant in My blood, which is shed for you.”

Luke 22:18

“...for I say to you, I will not drink of the fruit of the vine until the kingdom of God comes.”