

Pastor Dustin Daniels | River Bible Church
Mark: 3:1-6 | A Sabbath Day Showdown
August 3, 2020

PRAY:

INTRO:

Over the last several weeks, we have been learning about the burden of religion.

Religion—rules, regulations, and all the traditions that people have come up with to give them the illusion that they are a good person.

If they would stay within the boundaries of these rules, God will be pleased with them—because they think they're going to Heaven.

We looked at several examples of these man-made rules last week—

To what the Pharisees called the Oral Law.

We saw how ridiculous, how sad, and how pathetic these rules are.

"Religion" is man's opinion of how to get to God.

The problem is that everybody has an opinion.

And that's why the Bible is so important. We don't have to guess or speculate.

Out of love, God tells us how to have a relationship with Him.

The Word of God says that you are saved by grace, through faith in Jesus Christ—not by your works, rules, regulations, or traditions. (Ephesians 2:8). *one person*

The only work on our end is to believe that Jesus is God and that He died for our sins.

We have all been found guilty of committing many crimes against God and one another.

And it's through Jesus that God gives us a pardon.

Jesus is the one who has paid the debt for our sins.

It's because of Jesus that we have a right standing before God.

It's because of Jesus that our relationship with God has been reconciled.

Because He's the one who did the reconciling.

Lastly, we learned that Jesus brings freedom from all these man-made religious rules.

Jesus hates religion — Jesus desires a personal relationship. *offers* *at hand*

~~Religion is why the Pharisees — the spiritual leaders in Jesus' day — hated Jesus.~~

the Pharisees loved religion — ? hated Jesus
ast week We learned that the Pharisees read the Word of God, but they didn't understand it.

If they understood what they were reading, they would have realized that the Scriptures proclaim the arrival of Jesus.

cf: **Isaiah 35:5 NLT** — And when He comes, He will open the eyes of the blind and unplug the ears of the deaf.

cf: **Isaiah 35:6 NLT** — The lame will leap like a deer, and those who cannot speak will sing for joy!

Does that sound like anybody that you know?!

It's Jesus who is fulfilling that prophecy.

The Pharisees hated Jesus, not because He healed people or cast out demons, but because Jesus challenged their authority, He embarrassed them by mocking their customs, and claimed to be the Son of God.

Today's lesson continues from last week.

It's like Part Two—A sequel. *to a blockbuster movie. It has all the elements that keep us in suspense for the big screen. — Hero, villains, love, hate, God vs. evil.*

~~We see conflict continue to escalate between Jesus and the Pharisees.~~

~~And when conflict escalates, we see anger.~~

~~Today, we see two types of anger.~~

~~We see Jesus get angry and then the Pharisees rage in anger.~~

We have a heavyweight boxing fight on our hands today—with Jerry Springer as the referee for added drama.

This should be interesting.

****PLEASE STAND for the reading of God's Word****

SCRIPTURE: Mark 3:1-6

Mark 3:1 NLT—Jesus went into the synagogue again, and noticed a man with a deformed hand.

Mark 3:2 NIV —Some of them were looking for a reason to accuse Jesus, so they watched Him closely, to see if Jesus would heal him, on the Sabbath.

Mark 3:3 NIV —Jesus said to the man with the shriveled hand, "Stand up in front of everyone."

Mark 3:4 NLT —Then Jesus turned to His critics and asked, "Does the law permit good deeds on the Sabbath, or is it a day for doing evil? Is this a day to save life or to destroy it?" But they wouldn't answer him.

Mark 3:5 CSB —After looking around at them with anger, Jesus was grieved at the hardness of their hearts and told the man, "Stretch out your hand." So he stretched it out, and his hand was restored!

Mark 3:6 NIV —Then the Pharisees went out and began to plot with the Herodians how they might kill Jesus.

This is the Word of our Lord. Amen. Please be seated.

EXEGESIS:

Mark 3:1 NLT —Jesus went into the synagogue again and noticed a man with a deformed hand.

Here we have Jesus teaching and preaching as usual.

Today He's in the synagogue, probably somewhere in Galilee.

As Jesus is preaching, He notices a man with a deformed hand. (withered, shriveled).

Doctor Luke is more specific in his gospel and tells us that it's his right hand (Luke 6:6).

Since most people are right-handed, this condition would have been crippling to this man.

Most likely, this man found it very hard to earn a living.

It's possible that this man was a beggar in Galilee.

Mark 3:2 NIV — Some of them were looking for a reason to accuse Jesus, so they watched Him closely to see if Jesus would heal him on the Sabbath.

Watched Closely: this means that the Pharisees were not in the congregation to worship God, to encourage others and to serve the Living God.

No, they were there to spy on Jesus.

The sense here is that "they were watching out of the corner of their eye."

The Pharisees were "hanging in suspense."

Can you hear the dramatic music begin?

This is not a casual observation.

This behavior is sinister.

- pure wickedness

The Pharisees are scrutinizing every word and deed of Jesus.

Why are the religious leaders doing this?

They are investigating Jesus.

This is a formal investigation. This is political.

Think about it, Jesus has built quite the resume so far.

Jesus has a reputation as a blasphemer—claims to be God (2:7),

-Miracles to prove it.

a friend of sinners (2:16),

a renegade to religious custom (2:18),

and a Sabbath-breaker (2:24).

In other words, Jesus can't do anything right.

He can't even breathe without somebody complaining.

And after last week with Jesus telling the Pharisees that He is *Lord over the Sabbath* because He created the Sabbath,

it's possible that the Pharisees pre-arranged for this injured man to be sitting in the pews.

That would have been real easy—all they would have to do is give him some cash.

Regardless, Jesus knows that this is a trap. He sees the shenanigans.

But rather than avoiding the conflict, He moves into it.

Jesus knows that the Pharisees are plotting and planning to somehow "get him." oo

But it's Jesus who initiates the showdown.

Jesus ^{does not} ~~does~~ back down or not shy away.

Now, the Pharisees knew that Jesus could heal this man, but that's not their concern.

They wanted to see if He would heal him on the Sabbath day.

I gave you some examples of the man-made oral law of the Pharisees last week.

Here's the issue today.

Sick people were only allowed enough medical treatment to keep them alive. Because any medical treatment that improved their condition was considered work.

Because it's against the law to "work" on the Sabbath.

If Jesus did heal this man, they weren't looking to praise God and rejoice that this guy gets his life back...

No, they would accuse Jesus of breaking their laws about healing on the Sabbath.

So Jesus gets done with preaching His message...

Mark 3:3 NIV — Jesus said to the man with the shriveled hand, "Stand up in front of everyone."

At this moment, can you feel the man's horror, shame, and embarrassment?

This guy thought he made some easy money, and all of a sudden, he's being singled out by this famous rabbi named Jesus.

Do you think if he knew he was a pawn in the Pharisees political game, that he would have taken the job?

① No, most people who have some type of infirmity don't want to be singled out so that someone can draw attention to it.

③ Notice the compassion of the Lord Jesus here.

② Jesus deliberately uses this man as an illustration to His sermon.

④ Maybe Jesus is hoping that the sight of this man with his deformed hand standing in front of everyone would soften them a bit.

It's interesting, that this man didn't ^{SAY} one word to Jesus.

If you were this man, what would you have done?

I'll tell you what I would have done, "Hey, Jesus, thanks, but no thanks, I'm good."

But that's not what happened.

Mark 3:4 NLT — Then Jesus turned to His critics and asked, "Does the law permit good deeds on the Sabbath, or is it a day for doing evil? Is this a day to save life or to destroy it?" But they wouldn't answer Him.

What kind of question is that?

Jesus is paraphrasing the Old Testament.

Deuteronomy 30:15 GW — Today I offer you life and prosperity or death and destruction.

Even the Pharisees believed that it was lawful to do good on the Sabbath.

Who would say "no" to that?

This is like a scene right out of a movie.

Can you hear the music become more tense?

Jesus realizes that this whole event is carefully-staged-political-theater.

Jesus could have healed this man a few hours later without all the drama.

But He doesn't.

Jesus is not going to be bullied by people who think they have all the answers.

Now at this point, what do you think is going through the crippled man's head?

(scripture)

These men sitting in the synagogue know who he is.

He's a part of their community!

Isn't he thinking, "Why is nobody answering?"

"Doesn't anybody care? Doesn't anyone want me to get well?"

"I can't believe that not one person is going to speak up for me!"

Because you can bank on the fact that this man knows who Jesus is.

He's heard the miraculous stories.

And now Jesus is standing right beside him and nobody is saying a word.

The gospel of Matthews gives us a little more detail.

cf: **Matthew 12:11 NLT** —And Jesus answered, "If you had a sheep that fell into a well on the Sabbath, wouldn't you work to pull it out? Of course you would.

cf: **Matthew 12:12 NLT** —And how much more valuable is a person than a sheep! Yes, the law permits a person to do good on the Sabbath." *standing right here!*

So Jesus is clearly forcing the issue.

"Are your hearts really this hard?"

Back to...

Mark 3:4 NLT —Is this a day to save life or to destroy it?" But they wouldn't answer him.

So we could say that Jesus put these guys in a pickle.

They wouldn't answer Him. What are they going to say? *☺*

If they admitted that it was lawful to do good and save a life on the Sabbath, then they couldn't accuse Jesus of anything.

On the other hand, if they claimed that it was lawful to do evil and kill, they would have clearly indicted themselves.

So, they only had one choice.

They did the only thing they could do. *They kept silent.*

I **Mark 3:5 CSB** ² After looking around at them with anger, Jesus was grieved at the hardness of their hearts and told the man, "Stretch out your hand." So he stretched it out, and his hand was restored.

¹ ↳ for everyone to see
3 So everybody is silent, and Jesus then starts to look at each one of the Pharisees one by one in the eyes, staring them down.

Can you imagine the tension in that room?

And Jesus' anger builds and builds as he looks around the room in silence,

Because of the lack of mercy from people who say they know God.

Now, we know that Jesus was angry in other parts of Scripture,

But this is the only place in the four Gospels where it says specifically says that Jesus was angry. (cf. Matthew. 21:12-13; John 2:15-17),

Why was Jesus angry? Back to verse 5.

Mark 3:5 CSB After looking around at them with anger, Jesus was grieved at the hardness of their hearts . . .

Jesus was angry at the injustice that was taking place and yet,

At the same time, Jesus felt sorry for the Pharisees.

Quite the mix of emotions—emotions that are on the opposite sides of ~~one another~~ ^{the spectrum}.

^{→ toward} We usually get angry when we don't get our way.

And that's called sin.

Jesus gets angry at the injustice that's being done to this man.

That's NOT sin

Jesus' anger has nothing to do with himself.

Jesus' anger is others focused.

This is a godly anger, because an injustice is being done to a human being.

Passion made in the image of God

It's the same reason God was angry at Israel.

Obst

The hard-heartedness of Israel (cf. Num. 11:10; Josh. 7:1; Ps. 2:1-6).

~~The more things change, the more they stay the same—people don't want to believe that God is for them.~~

~~They willfully reject God's truth.~~

~~They are unwilling to understand the mercy of God.~~

So what's Jesus do?

Jesus healed this man to spite the Pharisees.

Smiley face

Jesus told this man to stretch out his hand and he was instantly healed.

Jesus didn't ask the man if he believed or had any faith—He just healed him.

BTW, how much work did Jesus actually do?

Jesus healed by speaking.

KEYPOINT:

Jesus deliberately chose to heal this man to confront unbiblical restrictions.

heals

How did the Pharisees respond to this miracle?

You would think that even the Pharisees would have responded in faith after seeing a supernatural healing happen right before their eyes.

At the very least, one of the Pharisees should have called a time-out to reevaluate their game plan. — We don't ignore what I just saw, but that's not what happened.

Mark 3:6 NIV — Then the Pharisees went out and began to plot with the Herodians how they might kill Jesus. wow

But, no, we see the very opposite. — Hearts were not softened — hardened even more. why?

They didn't get what they wanted.

There acting like a two year old child throwing a scene in Wal-Mart because he can't have a piece of candy.

② Their anger escalates.

① They doubled down. on what they believed.
Let's talk about anger for a moment

cf. **Proverbs 15:18 NLT** — A hot-tempered person starts fights; a cool-tempered person stops them.

cf. **Proverbs 29:11 NLT** — Fools vent their anger, but the wise quietly hold it back.

cf. **Proverbs 29:22 NLT** — An angry person starts fights; a hot-tempered person commits all kinds of sin.

cf. **James 1:19 NLT** — Understand this, my dear brothers and sisters: You must all be quick to listen, slow to speak, and slow to get angry.

cf. **James 1:20 NLT** — Human anger does not produce the righteousness God desires.

And we see all these traits of anger right here —

Luke 6:11 CSB — They, ~~however~~, were filled with rage and started discussing with one another what they might do to Jesus.

Rage: Great fury—folly and foolishness.

Pharises
They saw red.

These guys were fuming because their authority had been publicly challenged once again.

They were embarrassed, they looked like idiots, but they brought it upon themselves.

Why? Because they're unteachable.

Here we see one of the biggest problems that still exist in our Churches today—unqualified and immature men. leading the church

These guys are so mad that they can't think rationally or logically—

Let alone, godly! — And yet they see the religious testimony of their joy,

The fact that the Pharisees ran to the Herodians weren't even there proves their immaturity.

The Herodians— This was a worldly group of Jews that supported the Herod the Great. not religious

Herod = Herodians

If they support Herod, this means they support Rome.

The Jews viewed the Herodians as traitors to their religious heritage...just like tax collectors.

The Herodians couldn't have been more different than the Pharisees.

They were usually enemies of one another.

However, the Jews and the Herodians took a time-out from hating one another to hate a newfound common enemy—Jesus—God in flesh and bone.

The Pharisees hated Jesus because He openly opposed their man-made system of the oral law. *rules? traditions*

The Herodians hated Jesus because He was becoming so popular, that He is now a threat to Rome (cf. John 6:15; 19:12).

so But now, we see the misplaced theological zeal of the Pharisees...

and the political convenience of the Herodians in bed together.

Talk about the Jerry Springer show.

Bizarro

KEYPOINT #2

The compassion of Jesus is free— but costly.

PREACH:

The compassion, mercy, grace, and love that Jesus offers is self-giving and other-directed,

self-giving *Love* and other-directed, *Mercy*

Jesus was more concerned about reaching people for God than about protecting his reputation. *Heaven*

Have you noticed that wherever Jesus goes, he provokes a crisis of faith?

people



I mean, we're only in the third chapter in Mark's gospel and look how many times Jesus has done this!

Have you noticed that Jesus doesn't really have long, drawn-out conversations with people?

There are exceptions, but for the most part, Jesus speaks to the heart of the matter.

And the heart of the matter—is always the heart.

The reason that the Pharisees were so angry with Jesus is that they were unteachable, unmovable, unchangeable.

Jesus wouldn't play ball with them. Jesus refused to do things their way.

And whenever anyone goes toe to toe with Jesus—the Son of God—

When you step into the ring with Jesus...

This will cause a crisis of faith.

Now think about what I just said. Jesus caused a crisis of faith.

So lets get up close: personal

We're talking about a critical point in your life. - doesn't necessarily be defined: life's job, finances, marriage, children, health, retirement

Where the pain is so great, you start to doubt everything you've ever known.

Where the suffering is so substantial, all you can do is cry.

And you're tempted to walk away from Jesus.

And it's in that moment—that situation—that event—to where it's decision time.

Jesus gave the Pharisees two choices—life or death.

Jesus also gives us two choices in our trials.

"Are you going to trust Me? Or trust yourself?"

Trusting God means that you need to make some adjustments to your life.

The Pharisees were not going to do that—they chose to trust themselves.

Trusting God means that you stop what you're doing, and join God in what He's doing.

A crisis of faith doesn't have to be bad, because it's an invitation from God.

Because

You can't stay where you are and go with God at the same time.

For the Pharisees, the question was, "Is Jesus Lord over the Sabbath?"

Today's lesson is another example of how Jesus is Lord over the Sabbath.

Jesus created the Sabbath, and if He chooses to heal someone and reveal his mercy, He has the right to do that.

For you

The question before you today, is Jesus Lord over your life?

Does Jesus have the authority to tell you what to do?

Your faith is demonstrated by your actions, regardless of what you say.

And if you call yourself a Christian in here today, please know that until you make these adjustments in your life, you will be of little use to God.

Some

Think about it, how much use were the Pharisees to God?

Facing a crisis forces us to choose what we believe about God.

And that's why so many people walk away

Their actions prove what they truly believe about God.

And this is the reason that many Churches fail—

They are unwilling to pay the price of obedience. - change

Trusting Jesus is well worth the cost, but at the same time, it will cost you everything as well.

were talking about the Kingdom of God - not the Kingdom of you.

The Pharisees are clearly not willing—not teachable.

So what about you?

In what ways are you acting like the Pharisees today?

Demanding obedience to your old ways of doing things.

And when you don't get your way, you plan, scheme, gossip and give unsolicited advice in areas that aren't even your responsibilities.

In other words, do you go plot w/ the Pharisees?

Is this how you handle conflict? There is a much better way

Are you teachable?

Are you willing to make some adjustments?

If you are, praise God.



the word of God says

If you're not, you're kicking against the goads.

Acts 9:5 | Acts 26:14

Remember, your faith is demonstrated by your actions.

Prayer:

Tithes and Offerings:

James and Marci Langston serve in the nation of Zambia.

Most Zambians believe spirits are everywhere, and their goal is to hurt them.

So what the Langstons have done ~~to teach the truth about God~~ is set up a Bible School that is sort of a weeklong seminary.

Over the course of a week, students learn fundamental Christian beliefs.

For advanced classes, they teach Zambian believers how to share the gospel and how to preach a simple sermon.

A portion of your tithes and offerings go to missionaries like them worldwide.

Ways to give:

1. Two black boxes in the foyer.
2. PO Box 4540 Cottonwood AZ 86326
3. Online via our website at RiverBible.org
4. Or text 928-421-4030. Give 1

BENEDICTION:

Now may the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you believe so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit. (Romans 15:13)

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