

March 30

Mark 3:1-2 (NIV) ¹ Another time he went into the synagogue, and a man with a shriveled hand was there. ² Some of them were looking for a reason to accuse Jesus, so they watched him closely to see if he would heal him on the Sabbath.

Marshall Polston attended Rollins College. In one of his classes, his Muslim professor claimed that Jesus was never crucified. She continued by claiming that neither Jesus' disciples nor the majority of Christians today did not and do not believe in the resurrection. Polston disagreed, telling his teacher that her assertions were not accurate. The professor reported Polston to the administration and gave him a failing grade on an assignment. The administration, after speaking with the professor, chose to suspend Polston because the professor said that he made her feel "unsafe."

These scriptures describe a very interesting scene. The religious leaders were looking for a reason to accuse Jesus. They were determined to have Jesus removed from their lives. It was not because they did not believe in Him; instead, it was because they did believe. The scripture states that they watched Jesus closely to see if He "would" heal the man, not to see if He "could." They knew Jesus could heal. They knew Jesus was not afraid to heal on the Sabbath because, contrary to their views, Jesus did not view healing someone as breaking the Sabbath. Therefore, we could say that Jesus made them feel "unsafe" because Jesus threatened their belief system. We will encounter people who do not believe in Jesus, and we will encounter people who feel threatened by Jesus. The latter will often fight harder than the former because the light of Jesus Christ will make them feel "unsafe." In the face of such opposition, we continue to let our light shine. Jesus healed the man, and Polston plainly stated that he believed. Both were persecuted, but the light still shone.