

Mark 3:1-12

Another time he went into the synagogue, and a man with a shriveled hand was there. 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. Jesus said to the man with the shriveled hand, "Stand up in front of everyone."

Then Jesus asked them, "Which is lawful on the Sabbath: to do good or to do evil, to save life or to kill?" But they remained silent.

He looked around at them in anger and, deeply distressed at their stubborn hearts, said to the man, "Stretch out your hand." He stretched it out, and his hand was completely restored. Then the Pharisees went out and began to plot with the Herodians how they might kill Jesus.

Doctrinal/ Teaching Points:

1. Anger is not necessarily a sin.
2. Obedience is evidence of faith.

Practical Applications:

1. Let's not do evil by refusing to do good.
2. Don't be surprised if opposing forces unite against you.

Questions From The Text:

1. Is it possible that the man with the withered hand was "planted?"

The man could have been brought by the religious leaders to see if Jesus would "work" on the Sabbath (Mark 3:2). The Pharisees watched, just like they watched before (Mark 2:23-24), that they might accuse Jesus of breaking the Sabbath law.

2. What kind of hearts did the Pharisees have?

Hardened and calloused. See Mark 3:5.

3. Who were the Herodians?

They supported Herod, the son of Herod Antipas. The Herods ruled in the Galilee area, whereas Pontius Pilate was the ruler in Judea.

4. Why did the Pharisees and Herodians counsel together?

The Herodians feared political unsettling because of Jesus; the Pharisees were challenged by Him in religious matters. The enemies of each other became co-conspirators to be rid of Christ.

5. Was Jesus Christ ever angry?

Christ looked on them in anger" (Mark 3:5). This is the only unquestioned and explicit account of Christ's anger, although it was implied at other times (e.g., cleansing the temple).

6. Isn't anger sin? Are there limits to being angry?

Anger can be a proper emotional response when it involves degrading God. Why was Jesus angry? Because of the unbelievable hardness of men's hearts. *"Be angry, and sin not" (Ephesians 4:26).* Anger need not be a loss of temper or a fit of rage. It can be non-malicious indignation for the right reasons, and it can be controlled to bring right to a wrong.

7. How did the man with the withered hand evidence his faith?

He obeyed what Christ told him to do, and because of obedience, his hand was restored. See Mark 3:3-5.

Further Discussion:

1. Recall an Old Testament person who gave evidence of faith by his/her obedience.
2. "Don't taint a saint." When believers criticize you, even to forming a coalition against you, how do you respond? By name-calling or degrading them? Or do you let the Lord handle the situation?

Memorize:

- "Jesus said, The Sabbath was made for man, and not man for the Sabbath. The Son of Man is also Lord of the Sabbath." (Mark 2:27-28)

Gospel of Mark Sermon Series
Bible Study #11- Mark 3:1-6