

Don't miss Jesus

[Mar 3:1-12 ESV] 1 Again he entered the synagogue, and a man was there with a withered hand. 2 And they watched Jesus, to see whether he would heal him on the Sabbath, so that they might accuse him. 3 And he said to the man with the withered hand, "Come here." 4 And he said to them, "Is it lawful on the Sabbath to do good or to do harm, to save life or to kill?" But they were silent. 5 And he looked around at them with anger, grieved at their hardness of heart, and said to the man, "Stretch out your hand." He stretched it out, and his hand was restored. 6 The Pharisees went out and immediately held counsel with the Herodians against him, how to destroy him. 7 Jesus withdrew with his disciples to the sea, and a great crowd followed, from Galilee and Judea 8 and Jerusalem and Idumea and from beyond the Jordan and from around Tyre and Sidon. When the great crowd heard all that he was doing, they came to him. 9 And he told his disciples to have a boat ready for him because of the crowd, lest they crush him, 10 for he had healed many, so that all who had diseases pressed around him to touch him. 11 And whenever the unclean spirits saw him, they fell down before him and cried out, "You are the Son of God." 12 And he strictly ordered them not to make him known.

I. Intro

- A. Jesus rightly declared the Sabbath was made for man, not man for the sabbath.
- B. He declared himself to be Lord of the Sabbath, and will eventually go on to explain He is Lord of all.
- C. The Religious leaders could not handle this authority and direct conflict with their interpretation of the Law.
- D. Jesus was standing among them and they couldn't see Him for who he was.
- E. They were missing Jesus!

II. Text

- A. Verses 1-2: They were watching and waiting for Jesus to break the law of the Sabbath
- B. Verses 3-4: teaching moment
 1. Jesus asks them questions they had not considered regarding the sabbath
 2. Their silence was telling, they were not interested in being challenged in their thought and understanding, they were interested in strict traditional following of the law.
- C. Verse 5:
 1. He looked at them with anger
 2. He was grieved at their hardness of heart
 3. He said "stretch out your hand" and the hand was restored
 4. Notice, Jesus didn't say anything to the man about being healed, He just did it.
 - a) No work
 - b) No process
 - c) No measure of faith mentioned...just a restored hand as evidence.
- D. Verse 6: This made them more determined, they were convinced He needed to be destroyed.
- E. Verses 7-9:
 1. Great crowds gathered
 2. They missed Jesus in some ways, but were all in with the signs and wonders.
- F. Verses 10-12: The unclean Spirits did not miss Jesus, they knew who He was and what He was doing.

III. Points

- A. Strong Holds can cause you to miss Jesus
 1. Religion is a stronghold when it gets in the way of relationship with Jesus
 2. Legalism is the stronghold that is causing the Jewish leadership to miss the point so much.
 - a) [Jer 31:31-34 ESV] 31 "Behold, the days are coming, declares the LORD, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah, 32

not like the covenant that I made with their fathers on the day when I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt, my covenant that they broke, though I was their husband, declares the LORD. 33 For this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, declares the LORD: I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts. And I will be their God, and they shall be my people. 34 And no longer shall each one teach his neighbor and each his brother, saying, 'Know the LORD,' for they shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest, declares the LORD. For I will forgive their iniquity, and I will remember their sin no more."

- b) The Old Covenant was never going to be enough, God promised something better.
 3. What are your strongholds that are keeping you from complete trust and submission to Christ?
 - a) Is it tradition? Are you so tied to "the way things were" that you are missing the work of Christ today?
 - b) Is it legalism? Are you trying to obey God transactionally, but the heart is not in it?
 - c) Is it addiction? Are you permanently clouded in judgment and find yourself in bondage?
 - d) Is it bitterness? Are you refusing to release bitterness and in so doing keeping yourself from enjoying peace and comfort in Christ.
 - e) Is it control issues? Do you want to dictate how God works and when He works?
 4. Strongholds are usually of our own making, and the bondage can only be overcome by commitment and discipline in Christ.
 - a) Practice discipline in Christ
 - b) Pray, serve, yield
 - c) Read, study, and apply the Bible
 - d) Practice the faith with a heart for Christ
 - e) Gather with the Body of Christ seeking
- B. Loopholes can cause you to miss Jesus
1. Loopholes and work arounds are practices of a faith that is not built upon honesty and faith in Christ.
 2. When we read the truth of scripture, we should receive it as it is presented, and study to understand the truth of it.
 3. Stop excusing sin! Instead confess sin and find restored fellowship in honesty and integrity.
 4. We are all needing to deal with sin:
 - a) What we know about ourselves is that we are not a completed work, but a work in progress.
 - b) We are all faced with sin in our own lives, and if we are not dealing with correction or conviction, its because we are no longer seeking for growth.
 - c) The religious leaders of the day were doing what normal people do without the Holy Spirit's direction.
 - d) This is where we cannot grow comfortable as believers.
 5. Jesus is clearly teaching something: HE IS LORD OF ALL
 - a) The sabbath law was celebrated in their system
 - b) It was a right of passage each week that allowed the self righteous to put salve on a wound, but never getting to the heart of the problem.
 - c) So, Jesus is teaching them that He is the Lord
 - (1) of the sabbath
 - (2) of their practice of fasting
 - (3) of healing that is necessary
 - (4) of how to interpret the law

- d) He is demonstrating that HE IS GOD IN THEIR PRESENCE
- C. Ignorance can cause you to miss Jesus
 - 1. Ignorance has become such a challenging word in our society
 - 2. Willful ignorance to evidence that is contrary to obvious truth is a clear problem in our world.
 - a) The philosophy of man has clearly stated that truth can be defined by public opinion, and public opinion seems to always be changing.
 - b) The recent movement of thought to allow for self identification is a real problem
 - c) But it is just an indication the real problem, ignorance to truth.
 - 3. We MUST stand against ignorance in our own lives
 - 4. And we MUST help others come to know truth for themselves
 - 5. This is:
 - a) Disciples becoming educated
 - b) 'Not yet' disciples being invested in by disciples
 - c) Disciples making disciples!
 - 6. So here is the challenge: STRIVE TO KNOW CHRIST AND HIS WORD
 - 7. Notice, the demons and evil spirits are not wondering about who Jesus is. THEY KNOW
 - 8. Here is challenge:
 - a) Give Jesus 30 days to change your point of view.
 - b) 30 day challenge:
 - (1) Read the Bible every day for 30 days
 - (2) Confess sin every day for 30 days
 - (3) Make a prayer list and pray through it every day for 30 days
 - (4) Engage in gospel conversations every day for 30 days
 - c) After 30 days you will find:
 - (1) Peace, comfort, and conviction through reading His word
 - (2) Freedom and peace with Christ will come through confession
 - (3) Connection with Christ through prayer
 - (4) And...its hard to find a gospel conversation every day, but you will be mindful of the ministry of proclamation
 - (5) You WILL find positive growth and habits of discipline.

IV. Close

- A. [Isa 5:18-20 ESV] 18 Woe to those who draw iniquity with cords of falsehood, who draw sin as with cart ropes, 19 who say: "Let him be quick, let him speed his work that we may see it; let the counsel of the Holy One of Israel draw near, and let it come, that we may know it!" 20 Woe to those who call evil good and good evil, who put darkness for light and light for darkness, who put bitter for sweet and sweet for bitter!
- B. It's time for a change, allow your relationship to grow, prosper, and become what it should be...DON'T MISS JESUS!