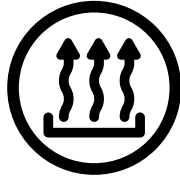




The Gospel of Mark



WARM-UP

When was the last time you tried something completely new to you? What was it and what was it like?

Pray for your time together as a group.



What happened last time in chapter 2 of Mark?



Break into 4 groups and answer the following questions for your set of verses. Then come back together and share with the whole group.



Group 1

MARK 3:1-6 (NIV)

1 Another time Jesus 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. 3 Jesus said to the man with the shriveled hand, "Stand up in front of everyone." 4 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. 5 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. 6 Then the Pharisees went out and began to plot with the Herodians how they might kill Jesus.

Group 2

MARK 3:7-12 (NIV)

7 Jesus withdrew with his disciples to the lake, and a large crowd from Galilee followed. 8 When they heard about all he was doing, many people came to him from Judea, Jerusalem, Idumea, and the regions across the Jordan and around Tyre and Sidon. 9 Because of the crowd he told his disciples to have a small boat ready for him, to keep the people from crowding him. 10 For he had healed many, so that those with diseases were pushing forward to touch him. 11 Whenever the impure spirits saw him, they fell down before him and cried out, "You are the Son of God." 12 But he gave them strict orders not to tell others about him.

Group 3

MARK 3:20,22-29 (NIV)

20 Then Jesus entered a house, and again a crowd gathered, so that he and his disciples were not even able to eat.... 22 And the teachers of the law who came down from Jerusalem said, "He is possessed by Beelzebul! By the prince of demons he is driving out demons."

23 So Jesus called them over to him and began to speak to them in parables: "How can Satan drive out Satan? 24 If a kingdom is divided against itself, that kingdom cannot stand. 25 If a house is divided against itself, that house cannot stand. 26 And if Satan opposes himself and is divided, he cannot stand; his end has come. 27 In fact, no one can enter a strong man's house without first tying him up. Then he can plunder the strong man's house. 28 Truly I tell you, people can be forgiven all their sins and every slander they utter, 29 but whoever blasphemes against the Holy Spirit will never be forgiven; they are guilty of an eternal sin."

Group 4

MARK 3:21, 30-35 (NIV)

21 When his family heard about this, they went to take charge of him, for they said, "He is out of his mind."... 30 He said this because they were saying, "He has an impure spirit."

31 Then Jesus' mother and brothers arrived. Standing outside, they sent someone in to call him. 32 A crowd was sitting around him, and they told him, "Your mother and brothers are outside looking for you."

33 "Who are my mother and my brothers?" he asked.

34 Then he looked at those seated in a circle around him and said, "Here are my mother and my brothers! 35 Whoever does God's will is my brother and sister and mother."



What are people's reactions to Jesus?

Possible Answers:

Mark 3:1-6 - The Pharisees were looking for ways to trap him and didn't even care that someone was healed. Obedience from the man

Mark 3: 7-12 - Crowds followed him. Unclean spirits saw him and fell down before him and knew who he was.

Mark 3: 20, 22-29 - Scribes thought he was demon possessed.

Mark 4: 21, 30-35 - His family was potentially concerned about him. The crowds were gathered around him listening.



Why do you think that is the reaction of those groups to Jesus?

Possible Answers:

Mark 3:1-6 - The Pharisees had stubborn and proud hearts. The man wanted to be healed, he knew he needed to be healed, and he must have thought Jesus could do it.

Mark 3: 7-12 - The crowds were witnessing and hearing about Jesus's healings and what he was doing. The demons knew the power and authority Jesus had.

Mark 3: 20, 22-29 - Jesus wasn't who the scribes thought he would be.

Mark 4: 21, 30-35 - Again, the crowds had seen and heard what Jesus was doing and wanted to be around him and learn from him.



What is Jesus's reaction and what does this say about who he is?

Possible Answers:

Mark 3:1-6 - Jesus heals the man. And he gets angry and grieved by the Pharisees response. It shows that he values compassion and humility.

Mark 3: 7-12 - He is a healer. He has all power and authority.

Mark 3: 20, 22-29 - He begins to teach in parables, and gives them a warning. This shows he's a teacher. He came to forgive sins. He was misunderstood.

Mark 4: 21, 30-35 - He calls the people his family. It shows he's loving and compassionate and merciful.



Are there situations where you respond like this to Jesus?

Possible Answers: Answers will vary



Come together and compare your answers for the questions above



Jesus gets angry in verse 5. Are there other times in the gospels that you can think of where Jesus gets angry?

Possible Answers: Matthew 21:12-16, John 2:13-17, Mark 10: 13-16



What is the common denominator that characterizes Jesus's anger in these instances? How does this impact you?

Possible Answers: Righteous indignation. He got angry about people taking advantage of others and doing it in his name. Hypocrisy and injustice made him angry. Sin and hard-heartedness made him angry. Impact: we could have similar feelings of anger to these things (just as Jesus did), turns our own hearts away from these sins knowing it angers our God so much, bring us to our knees knowing that we have also done these things that makes God angry, worship in reverence knowing that God's anger has been poured out on Jesus for our actions.



What does it look like to blasphemy against the Holy Spirit (verse 29)?

Possible Answers: The Holy Spirit reveals Jesus to us. To blasphemy against the Holy Spirit would be to reject Jesus and what He has done for us.

DISCUSSION FOR ACCOUNTABILITY



- What has been your current reaction to how God is currently working in you or the people around you?
- Is there an area where you feel you have a stubborn heart?
- What does it look like practically to live like you are family with Jesus?