MARK 3:1-19

1. **REVIEW:**

   A. **JESUS'S MINISTRIES OF "GOOD NEWS" FOR THE PEOPLE LEAD TO CONFLICTS WITH THE PHARISEES:**

      1. **HIS MINISTRY OF COMPASSION (1:40–45)**

         a. **JESUS HEALS A LEPER.**

      2. **HIS MINISTRY OF FORGIVENESS (2:1–12)**

         a. **JESUS FORGIVES THE SINS OF (AND HEALS) A PARALYTIC.**

      3. **HIS MINISTRY OF HOPE (2:13–17)**

         a. **JESUS OFFERS HIS MINISTRY OF HOPE TO A HATED MAN (LEVI) *AND* A HATED CLASS (JEWISH TAX COLLECTORS).**

      4. **HIS MINISTRY OF JOY (2:18–22)**

         a. **JESUS CHALLENGES THE PHARASEE'S RULE OF FASTING TWICE A WEEK.**

      5. **HIS MINISTRY OF GRACE (2:23–28)**

         a. **JESUS'S DISCIPLES BREAK THE PHARISEE'S SABBATH-REST RULES BY PICKING AND EATING GRAIN IN A FIELD ON THE SABBATH.**

      6. **HIS MINISTRY OF MERCY (3:1–6)**

         a. **JESUS HEALS A MAN WITH A WITHERED HAND ON THE SABBATH.**

   B. **IT IS BECOMING CLEAR: THAT *IF* JESUS IS GOING TO BE SUCCESSFUL WITH HIS MINISTRIES OF "GOOD NEWS" HE WILL HAVE TO LEAVE BEHIND:**

      1. **THE DEAD WEIGHT OF THE MAN-MADE RULES OF THE OLD RELIGIOUS SYSTEM.**

      2. **THE FORMS (E.G. LEGALISM) OF THE OLD RELIGIOUS SYSTEM.**

      3. **THE LEADERSHIP OF THE OLD RELIGIOUS SYSTEM.**

2. **MINISTRY OF MERCY: MARK 3:1-6… THE POT OF CONTROVERSY WITH THE PHARISEES REGARDING AUTHORITY THAT HAS BEEN SIMMERING NOW BEGINS TO BOIL.**

   A. **Mark 3:1-6 (NASB)**

   He entered again into a synagogue; and a man was there whose hand was withered. **They (THE PHARISEES) were watching Him *to see* if He would heal him on the Sabbath, so that they might accuse Him**. He said to the man with the withered hand, "Get up and come forward!" And He said to them, "**Is it lawful to do good or to do harm on the Sabbath, to save a life or to kill?**" **But they kept silent**. **After looking around at them with anger, grieved at their hardness of heart,** He said to the man, "**Stretch out your**

hand." And he stretched it out, and his hand was restored. The Pharisees went out and immediately *began* conspiring with the Herodians against Him, *as to* how they might destroy Him.

B. **THERE HAVE BEEN FIVE CONFLICTS WITH THE PHARISEES INCLUDING:**

1. **JESUS'S HEALING OF THE LEPER**
2. **HIS FORGIVENESS OF SINS,**
3. **HIS EATING WITH SINNERS,**
4. **RULES REGARDING FASTING,**
5. **RULES REGARDING THE SABBATH,**

C. **AND NOW JESUS' HEALING OF THE MAN WITH A WITHERED HAND ON THE SABBATH… IS "THE LAST STRAW" FOR JESUS!**

1. **HE REALIZES THAT HE CANNOT WIN THE PHARISEES… *SO* TO GET ON WITH HIS MINISTRY OF SERVICE TO PEOPLE IN NEED HE GOES ON OFFENSE:**
2. **And He said to them, "Is it lawful to do good or to do harm on the Sabbath, to save a life or to kill?" But they kept silent. After looking around at them with anger, grieved at their hardness of heart**, He said to the man, "Stretch out your hand." And he stretched it out, and his hand was restored.

D. **WAIT A MINUTE!!… WHO SAID ANYTHING ABOUT "KILLING"?**

1. **READ ON… Mark 3:6 (NLT) At once the Pharisees went away and met with the supporters of Herod to plot how to kill Jesus.**

E. **WHEN JESUS ENTERED THE SYNAGOGUE, SOMEONE WITH A SERIOUS NEED SAT IN THE CONGREGATION… A MAN WHOSE HAND WAS WITHERED.**

1. **They (THE PHARISEES) were watching Him *to see* if He would heal him on the Sabbath, so that they might accuse Him.**
2. **INTERESTING: THE PHARISEES "WERE WATCHING HIM".**
3. **THE GREEK WORD FOR "WATCHING" IS "PARATEREO" WHICH MEANS "WATCHING WITH SUSPIICION".**

F. **CONSIDERATION: IT IS POSSIBLE THAT THE PHARISEES PLACED THE MAN IN THE SYNAGOGUE KNOWING JESUS WOULD BE DRAWN TO HIM?**

1. ***AND*… THEY WAITED TO SEE WHAT HE WOULD DO… "so that they might accuse Him"**
   a. **THEY WERE "WATCHING" FOR AN OPPORTUNITY TO PUBLICLY CRITICIZE JESUS… AGAIN!**

1) **WHY: *BECAUSE* JESUS WAS CHALLENGING THEIR AUTHORITY!**

G. **DON'T MISS THE IRONY: JESUS WANTED TO DO GOOD ON THE SABBATH WHILE THE PHARISEES CONSPIRED TO DO EVIL… WHICH WAS TO KILL JESUS FOR DOING GOOD.**

H. **ACCORDING TO THE PHARISEE'S RULES REGARDING THE SABBATH JESUS SHOULD HAVE WAITED FOR A WEEKDAY TO HEAL THE MAN *BECAUSE* THEIR LAW SAID THIS KIND OF HEALING WAS *NOT* A MATTER OF LIFE AND DEATH… RIDICULOUS!!**

1. ***HOWEVER*, IN JESUS'S MIND, *NOT* ONLY WAS IT PERMISSIBLE TO DO GOOD ON THE SABBATH… IT WAS AN OBLIGATION!**

   a. **… *EVEN IF* THE HEALING WOULD PROVOKE ANOTHER SHOWDOWN WITH THE PHARISEES.**

2. **FACT: HUMAN NEED ALWAYS CREATED A MORAL IMPERATIVE FOR JESUS … *AND* THE PRIMARY TEST OF ALL THEOLOGY AND MORALITY IS HIS, AND OUR, RESPONSE TO THE WEAK AND DEFENSELESS MEMBERS OF SOCIETY.**

I. **JESUS' COUNTERQUESTION TO THE PHARISEES, "Is it lawful (ACCORDING TO THEIR LAWS) to do good or to do harm on the Sabbath, to save a life or to kill?"… CREATES A DILEMMA THAT THE PHARISEES REFUSE TO ANSWER.**

J. **UH-OH: "GRIVED AND ANGRY AT THE PHARISEES HARDNESS OF HEART" JESUS TURNS BACK TO THE MAN WITH A WITHERED HAND AND ASKS HIM TO STRETCH OUT HIS HAND AS A SHOW OF FAITH.**

1. **RESULT: THE MAN OBEYS *AND* HIS HAND IS HEALED!**

2. **IRONY: THIS HEALING ADDS INSULT TO INJURY FOR THE PHARISEES:**

   a. **BY SIMPLY ASKING THE MAN TO STRETCH OUT HIS HAND:**

      1) **JESUS DOES *NOT* BREAK ANY OF THE PHARISEE'S LABOR LAWS RELATING TO THE SABBATH.**

      2) **THE MAN: IS *ALSO* INNOCENT *BECAUSE* THERE IS NO LAW AGAINST OBEDIENCE.**

   b. **UH-OH: JESUS HAS BEATEN THE RELIGIOUS SYSTEM… A G A I N!**

K. **HOW SAD: THE PHARISEES FOOLISHLY DETERMINE THAT THERE IS ONLY ONE ALTERNATIVE AVAILABLE FOR THEM… *AND,* VIOLATING EVERY TENET OF THEIR LAW *AND* EVERY PRINCIPLE OF THEIR FAITH, THEY GO TO THE LEADERS OF THE HERODIAN PARTY TO CONSIDER ON HOW THEY COULD WORK TOGETHER TO "KILL" JESUS.**

1. **FACT: POLITICS MAKES STRANGE BEDFELLOWS!!!**

2. **NOTE: THE HERODIANS WERE LOYAL TO ROME AND OWED THEIR POWER TO THE ROMAN EMPERORS.**

L. **A VERY SAD PARADOX: GOD'S SPECIALISTS IN HUMAN SALVATION… COUNSELED WITH CAESAR'S SPECIALISTS IN HUMAN SLAUGHTER!**

M. **CONCLUSION: (MARK 2:21-3:6)**

1. **OPPORTUNITY:**
   a. **FOR THE PEOPLE JESUS HELPED AND HEALED.**
      1) **BECAUSE THE "GOOD NEWS" OF JESUS'S MINISTRY GAVE THE JEWISH PEOPLE COMPASSION, FORGIVENESS OF SIN, HOPE, JOY, GRACE, AND MERCY.**
2. **OPPOSITION:**
   a. **FROM THE PHARISEES WHO ARE SO SPIRITUALLY BANKRUPT THAT:**
      1) **THEY *NOT ONLY* REJECTED THE SPIRIT OF THEIR OWN SCRIPTURES,**
      2) **… THEY JOINED WITH THEIR ENEMIES IN A PLOT TO KILL THEIR ONLY SAVIOR!**

3. ***THEREFORE*…. Mark 3:7-12 (NASB) Jesus withdrew to the sea with His disciples**; and **a great multitude from Galilee followed**; **and *also* from Judea, and from Jerusalem, and from Idumea, and beyond the Jordan, and the vicinity of Tyre and Sidon**, a great number of people heard of all that He was doing and came to Him. **And He told His disciples that a boat should stand ready for Him because of the crowd, so that they would not crowd Him; for He had healed many, with the result that all those who had afflictions pressed around Him in order to touch Him.** Whenever the **unclean spirits** saw Him, they would fall down before Him and shout, **"You are the Son of God!" And He earnestly warned them not to tell who He was.**

A. **THE GREEK TERM FOR "WITHDREW" IS ANACHŌREŌ… IT HAS THE SENSE OF "RETREATED FROM BATTLE".**
   1. **THIS SCENE FOLLOWS THE CLIMAX OF THE PREVIOUS SEGMENT, IN WHICH THE PHARISEES CONFRONTATION WITH JESUS LED TO A CONSPIRACY TO KILL HIM.**
   2. **THE FACT THAT MARK DID *NOT* USE THE WORD "IMMEDIATELY" HERE SUGGESTS THAT JESUS "WITHDREW" FROM A DIRECT CONFLICT AFTER A PERIOD OF TIME.**
      a. **SOME PEOPLE ONLY SEE JESUS AS BEING MEEK AND MILD, *BUT* HE WAS MOST OFTEN COURAGEOUSLY BOLD AND CHARACTERIZED BY A DARING, UNCOMPROMISING MANNER THAT CAUSED MANY PEOPLE TO BE DRAWN TO HIM… AND OTHERS TO DESPISE HIM.**

3. **NOTE: JESUS WAS *NOT* AFRAID OF CONFRONTATION… EVIDENTLY HE SAW A DIRECT CONFLICT AS COUNTERPRODUCTIVE TO HIS MISSION AT THAT TIME.**

B. **"Jesus withdrew to the sea," WHICH WAS THE "SEA" OF GALILEE.**

1. **FACT: JESUS WAS *NOT* LOOKING FOR SAFETY OR SECLUSION… HE WAS LOOKING FOR SOLITUDE.**

   a. **AT THIS POINT IN JESUS' MINISTRY, THE SOUND OF SILENCE WOULD HAVE BEEN RARE FOR THESE BUSY MEN.**

      1) ***UNFORTUNATELY*, THE SOLITUDE WOULD ONLY LAST A FEW HOURS BECAUSE…**

C. **"… a great multitude from Galilee followed; and *also* from Judea, and from Jerusalem, and from Idumea, and beyond the Jordan, and the vicinity of Tyre and Sidon,"**

1. **JESUS' FAME HAD SPREAD THROUGHOUT ISRAEL, AND MARK NAMES SEVERAL REGIONS FROM WHICH MULTITUDES CAME TO SEE HIM.**

   a. **THEY COMPRISE ALL THE LAND OF ISRAEL. SOME TRAVELED FROM AS FAR AS 120 MILES AWAY, A FIVE-DAY JOURNEY FOR ABLE-BODIED TRAVELERS.**

      1) **WHO KNOWS HOW LONG IT TOOK FOR SOME OF THE INFIRM TO TRAVEL TO SEE JESUS?**

      2) **IT WAS 120-140 MILES FROM IDUMEA TO THE SEA OF GALILEE!**

2. **FACT: THE JOURNEY FROM SOUTHERN ISRAEL TO THE SEA OF GALILEE WAS OVER HILLS AND THROUGH VALLEYS OVER ROUGH TERRAIN!**

D. **"And He told His disciples that a boat should stand ready for Him because of the crowd, so that they would not crowd Him; for He had healed many, with the result that all those who had afflictions pressed around Him in order to touch Him."**

1. **JESUS INSTRUCTED HIS DISCIPLES TO HAVE A BOAT PREPARED FOR LAUNCH AS A PRACTICAL MATTER.**

   a. **REMEMBER: JESUS WAS MOTIVATED BY COMPASSION TO HEAL THE SICK, CLEANSE THOSE WITH LEPROSY, AND CAST OUT DEMONS… *HOWEVER*, HE CAME FOR A GREATER PURPOSE: TO PROCLAIM THE "GOOD NEWS" THAT THE KINGDOM OF GOD HAD ARRIVED.**

   b. **WHEN HEALING BEGAN TO HINDER AND COMPROMISE JESUS'S TEACHING MINISTRY, HE MADE ADJUSTMENTS.**

1) ***SO*… WHEN THE CRUSH AROUND HIM BECAME TOO RESTRICTIVE, HE CLIMBED IN A BOAT, PUSHED OUT A SHORT DISTANCE, AND USED THE SHORELINE AS A NATURAL AMPHITHEATER.**

c. NOTE: MANY POPULAR LEADERS CRAVE ATTENTION AND THEY CAN NEVER HAVE TOO MANY FOLLOWERS… *HOWEVER*, JESUS MAINTAINED A CAREFUL BALANCE BETWEEN POPULARITY AND EFFECTIVENESS!

1) THERE CAME A TIME WHEN HIS POPULARITY BEGAN TO HINDER HIS MESSAGE.

i. CURIOSITY SEEKERS AND RELIGIOUS LEADERS JOCKEYED TO BE CLOSE TO JESUS PUSHING AWAY THOSE WITH THE GREATEST NEED TO HEAR THE "GOOD NEWS" OF THE GOSPEL (THAT HE HAS COME TO FORGIVE SIN AND OFFER ETERNAL LIFE TO ALL WHO BELIEVED IN HIM).

E. Whenever the **unclean spirits** saw Him, they would fall down before Him and shout, "**You are the Son of God!**"

1. INTERESTING: WHILE THE PEOPLE STRUGGLED WITH JESUS' DIVINE IDENTITY DESPITE THE EVIDENCE OF HIS MIRACULOUS ABILITIES, HIS AUTHORITATIVE TEACHING, AND HIS POWER OVER DEMONS… SATAN'S DEMONS KNEW EXACTLY WHO HE WAS!

F. **"… And He earnestly warned them not to tell who He was."**

1. WHY: JESUS WANTED HIS FOLLOWERS TO ACCEPT HIM AS THE SON OF GOD, *BUT* NOT ON THE TESTIMONY OF DEMONS *BECAUSE*:

a. HE HAD A CAREFULLY PROGRAMMED MESSAGE THAT PROGRESSIVELY REVEALED TRUTH ACCORDING TO A SCHEDULE.

b. HAVING DEMONS ACT AS HIS PUBLIC RELATIONS AGENTS WOULD TAINT THE INTEGRITY OF HIS "GOOD NEWS".

c. THE TESTIMONY OF DEMONS WOULD CAUSE FEAR INSTEAD OF FAITH AMONG THE PEOPLE.