

Following Jesus – A Study of the GO Gospel – Part 4

Right or Wrong? (moral dilemma ahead)

This is how we know we are in him: Whoever claims to live in him must live as Jesus did. 1 John 2:5b-6

A Startling Statement beginning Mark's gospel

Jesus Christ is The Good News

Jesus Christ is The Promised Deliverer

Jesus Christ is God the Son!

Jesus takes center stage (Mark 1:14-15)

Action Step #1: Repent and Believe

Jesus calls common people to be His disciples (Mark 1:17-20)

Action Step #2: Follow Jesus

Jesus reached out in love & healed a man with leprosy (Mark 1:40-42)

Action Step #3: Be filled with compassion then reach out to someone

Jesus went to a party with a purpose (Mark 2:13-17)

Action Step #4: Throw (or be part of) a Matthew Party

Mark 3:1-35: 4 Stories of Jesus in Action

1. Jesus healed on the Sabbath (vs. 1-6)
2. Crowds followed Jesus (vs. 7-12)
3. Jesus selected twelve disciples (vs. 13-19)
4. Jesus accused by JRL & confronted by family (vs. 20-35)

Right or Wrong? Jesus faced a moral dilemma in Mark 3:1-6

Mark 3:1 Another time he went into the synagogue, and a man with a shriveled hand was there.

Luke 6:6 *On another Sabbath he went into the synagogue and was teaching, and a man was there whose right hand was shriveled.*

Synagogue: the center of life for the Jewish Community—likely in Capernaum

Shriveled Hand: (withered) a hand damaged by an accident and useless (tradition: stone mason)

Right or Wrong? Jesus faced a moral dilemma in Mark 3:1-6 (continued)

Mark 3:2 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.

Them: Pharisees (The JRL—see v. 6)

Watched him: intently observed to see if Jesus would heal on the Sabbath—looking for proof

Heal: healing was considered work and prohibited on the Sabbath (4th commandment)

Mark 3:3 Jesus said to the man with the shriveled hand, “Stand up in front of everyone.”

Rise in the middle: Stand up in the middle of the room where everyone can see you

Mark 3:4 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.

Lawful: Jesus is directing the JRL to The Law (mind) then directs them to the moral (heart)

Right or Wrong? Is it right to do good or evil on the Sabbath? (Jesus is appealing to the Semitic mind)

Implied: not to do good when given the opportunity is to contribute to evil

But they remained silent:

- Refused to answer a moral question—this is a legal issue
- Approval would undermine their rules for the Sabbath
- The obvious answer would show their Sabbath regulations as false and foolish
- A ‘NO’ would be impossible to defend and would receive disapproval from the people

Mark 3:5 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.

Anger: flash of holy indignation against the sin of heartlessness and legalism

Deeply distressed: prolonged feeling of sadness & grief at their stubbornness and hardness of heart

Completely restored: miraculously healed

IRONY: the healing was not a physical act

Mark 3:6 Then the Pharisees went out and began to plot with the Herodians how they might kill Jesus.

Luke 6:11 But the Pharisees and the teachers of the law were furious and began to discuss with one another what they might do to Jesus.

Went out: The Pharisees immediately walked out in protest after the miraculous healing

Herodians: political supporters of Herod Antipas the governor of Galilee who saw Jesus as a political threat

IRONY: Healing on the Sabbath is a terrible crime, but it's acceptable to plot someone's murder on the Sabbath!

LESSONS

- Moral dilemmas can be costly
- Following Jesus is not about fulfilling legal requirements but a matter of the heart

Action Step #5: Respond with LOVE Not Religion