

Student Handout – Mark Chapter 3

Theme: Jesus – Authority, Compassion, and the Cost of Following Him

Overview

Mark 3 shows growing conflict around Jesus' ministry. As His authority becomes clearer, responses become stronger—faith, confusion, and opposition.

Section 1: Mark 3:1–6 – Healing on the Sabbath

- Jesus heals a man with a withered hand on the Sabbath.
- Religious leaders value rules over compassion.
- Jesus teaches that doing good is always right.
- Hard hearts grieve Jesus.

Think About It:

Why is compassion sometimes harder than rule-following?

How can religious habits become barriers to love?

Section 2: Mark 3:7–12 – Crowds Follow Jesus

- Large crowds follow Jesus for healing and miracles.
- Unclean spirits recognize Jesus' authority.
- Crowds are not the same as committed disciples.

Key Insight:

Crowds seek benefits; disciples seek transformation.

Section 3: Mark 3:13–19 – Jesus Chooses the Twelve

- Jesus calls the Twelve to be with Him.
- Relationship comes before ministry.
- Jesus chooses ordinary, imperfect people.
- Judas reminds us that proximity to Jesus is not the same as faith.

Section 4: Mark 3:20–21 – Misunderstood by Family

- Jesus' family believes He has lost control.
- Obedience to God can bring misunderstanding.
- Even those close to us may not understand God's calling.

Section 5: Mark 3:22–30 – Warning About Hard Hearts

- Religious leaders accuse Jesus of using Satan's power.
- Jesus explains that Satan cannot defeat himself.
- Persistent rejection of God's work leads to spiritual blindness.

Important Truth:

Blasphemy of the Holy Spirit is a hardened, continual rejection of God—not a moment of doubt.

Section 6: Mark 3:31–35 – Jesus Redefines Family

- Jesus teaches that obedience defines God's family.
- Anyone who does God's will belongs.
- Faith creates a new spiritual family.

Chapter Summary

Jesus is revealed as:

- Lord over religious rules
- The center of growing conflict
- The One who calls disciples into relationship
- The One who defines true family

Personal Reflection

1. Where might God be calling me to choose compassion over comfort?
2. Am I following Jesus as part of a crowd or as a disciple?
3. How does obedience shape my identity as part of God's family?