

JESUS HEALS A MAN WITH A SHRIVELLED HAND MARK 3:1-6



Parents Notes Sunday 6th October, 2019

We are learning today: God's law is about loving others and God, not obeying rules

Summary

This incident comes after a series of verbal attacks on Jesus by the teachers of the law in chapter 2 where they are trying to trip Jesus up and prove him to be wrong. Here, it seems that it is not the man who asks Jesus to be healed, but Jesus just comes across a man with a shrivelled hand in the Synagogue on the Sabbath (v1).



Some Pharisees watched him to see whether he would heal on the Sabbath so that they can accuse him of being a law breaker which would invalidate all his teaching (v2). The Jewish Rabbis of the time interpreted God's commandment to keep the Sabbath Holy (Exodus 20:8) to even include helping someone, unless it was life-threatening. This man's hand wasn't urgent. Jesus could have come back and healed him the next day but Jesus didn't try to avoid the trap. Jesus knew what they were thinking and asked them, "which is better to do to on the Sabbath, to do evil or good, to heal or to kill?" (v4).

This account links directly to the passage that comes immediately before this (Mark 2:23-28). Jesus will heal on the Sabbath because he is Lord of the Sabbath (Mark 2:28), the very one who created the day of rest (Genesis 2:2). The Pharisees and Rabbis have totally misunderstood what God's law is all about. He made the Sabbath for people to rest and worship God, not for the Sabbath to be a burden by keeping rules and regulations (Mark 2:27). God's law can be summarised by love God and love your neighbour (Matthew 22:37-40), but these Pharisees seemed to do neither. These hypocrites were only concerned for their own reputation and love for themselves (See Luke:11-37-53). If they genuinely loved their neighbour, they would care those who suffer and want them to be healed rather than seeking to kill someone on the Sabbath. In what ways do we put ourselves before loving God and loving others? How can we sometimes just care about making it look like we live a good life, rather than really loving God?

For home

How do we sometimes use rules to stop other people coming to Jesus?

How can we sometimes pretend to be good and actually forget about loving people and God?

Why can trying so hard to obey God's rules end up stop us from actually coming to Jesus for forgiveness?

Memory verse

'It is not the healthy who need a doctor, but the sick. I have not come to call the righteous, but sinners.' (Mark 2:17)

