

1. Jesus Distressed Mark 3: 1-6

There was a man with the shriveled hand, and some who wanted to accuse Jesus wanted to see if Jesus would heal on the Sabbath. Jesus did heal the man with the shriveled hand. But Jesus was deeply distressed looking at the stubborn hearts of the religious leaders. A man was in need, and the religious leaders were caught up in holding onto their rules and regulations. The Bible also says that Jesus got angry. When the needs of people is not met, do you get angry? Do you get distressed? Or do you just hold onto a rule and forget to have compassion on people? We get another insight from this passage, the Pharisees were challenged by Christ's compassion. The right way to act would have been to probably apologize, confess their hardness of heart and appreciate Jesus for what he did. Since their unwilling hearts were challenged, they began to plot how they might kill Jesus. If a prideful heart - when challenged by a compassionate heart- does not change, it might turn into a revengeful heart.

2. Jesus Serves Mark 3: 7-12

Jesus was constantly working. People from near and far were coming to be healed by him. Whenever evil spirits saw him, they would cry out in a loud voice, declaring who Jesus was – “The Son of God”. We see a few silent character traits of Jesus in this passage. Firstly, he never wanted to become popular as he gave strict orders to not speak about him. Secondly, we never see Jesus becoming tired due to constant serving. Thirdly, we never see Jesus complain about how much he had to do to serve. And lastly, Jesus must have had a happy attitude, because the crowd never seems to dwindle. What an amazing heart Jesus had as he served. Let's learn to imitate this heart.

3. Jesus Appoints Mark 3: 13-19

Jesus appoints twelve apostles that they might be with him, get the necessary training, and that they might go out to preach. The names of the twelve apostles whom Jesus appointed are mentioned. There is a difference between a 'Disciple' and an 'Apostle'. Disciple was one who learned from Jesus and Apostles were those sent out by Jesus to preach. Not all Disciples are Apostles but all Apostles are Disciples. In the book of Acts, we see many of these Apostles become church leaders. We too must have a dream to be a Bible talk leader, a Family group leader, a Regional leader or a Church leader. Wanting to be a leader for Jesus means wanting to be a servant for others. If you have not been appointed as a leader, then ask your discipler, 'What must I change?' Some of us have been appointed as a leader, then ask yourself, 'Have I been serving as one?'

4. Jesus Reasons Mark 3: 20-30

We find Jesus being falsely accused. Even his own family members said that he has lost his mind and he is crazy. (If today your family members are against you, then remember what happened to Jesus). The teachers of the law said that he had a demon and that by the prince of demons (with the help of a Chief Demon) Jesus was doing all the miracles. But in fact, Jesus was innocent. Jesus tried to reason with the teachers of the law. He explained that Satan will not go against himself. Hence, Jesus cannot be driving out demons with the power of Satan. Man also did not have this power to drive out demons. Therefore, the religious leaders were challenged to accept that Jesus was driving out demons only through God's power. Jesus gives another illustration of a strong man's house being attacked. In order to enter the strong man's house, one had to tie the strong man and only then plunder his house. Here the strong man is Satan. The attacker is Jesus. The plunder is the people. Thus, what Jesus is saying, is that only he has the power to bind Satan and set us free.

5. Jesus Chooses Mark 3: 31-35

Jesus' mother and brothers arrived while he was preaching. They sent someone to call him. Jesus looked at the people sitting around him and declared that they were his mother, brother and sister. According to Jesus, whoever did God's will was his mother, brother and sister. This is hard teaching. We are probably wondering how Jesus could make such a statement. Jesus was clearly defining God's choice. God's first and foremost family trait is spirituality. The center of spirituality has got to do with God's will. The center of God's will is based on obedience. To obey is spiritual. To disobey is carnal. Jesus made a choice to obey God. People around him made a choice to obey God. Jesus' physical family at this time decided not to obey God. (Later on in Acts 1, we know that his mother had joined the apostles, and of course, we have Jesus' brothers James and Jude who contributed to the New Testament). If Jesus did not start a spiritual family, then none of us can be part of God's family. To be part of God's family, we must do God's will. And according to Jesus, the ones who do God's will (spiritual family) are more important than physical family.