

To Save Life or to Kill

Mark 2:23 – 3:35



~ We concluded our previous report from our Spiritual Safari expedition through the entire Word of God in the corn fields with Jesus and the apostles scrounging for a few bites to eat. Apparently, the donations from the healed multitudes were rendering the apostles perpetually impoverished. We had another Sabbath day issue arise in chapter one; and we intentionally bypassed it, so we could examine both of them together. The Pharisees obviously interpret Jesus and the apostles picking corn as "harvesting;" which would mean they are working on the Sabbath. So, this Person Who claims to be God is condoning the breaking of the Mosaic System of Levitical Law by His apostles. The religious rulers weren't going to have that. My questions are: why weren't the Pharisees at home with their families observing the Sabbath as it was commanded? Why didn't the apostles seem to have ANY privacy along their journey? So many questions.

Well, irrespective of the unanswered questions, these men were hungry, so they were eating. The Mosaic law allowed them to break off enough for personal consumption as long as they followed the law. The problem is the Pharisees wanted to mix it all up and make it seem as though the sickle had been put to the stalk. Of course, that WOULD have been breaking the law; but that's not what happened. So, Jesus refuses to argue the issue of breaking the Sabbath day. He asks them several questions involving the life of King David. David had, most definitely, broken the Mosaic law - and was justified. You must remember that the law was not to be imposed when it wrought hardship on one of God's servants who was attempting to serve Him. Make a note....

II

23 And it came to pass, that he went through the corn fields on the Sabbath day; and his disciples began, as they went, to pluck the ears of corn.

24 And the Pharisees said unto him, Behold, why do they on the Sabbath day that which is not lawful?

25 And he said unto them, Have ye never read what David did, when he had need, and was an hungred, he, and they that were with him?

26 How he went into the house of God in the days of Abiathar the high priest, and did eat the shewbread, which is not lawful to eat but for the priests, and gave also to them which were with him?

27 And he said unto them, The Sabbath was made for man, and not man for the Sabbath:

28 Therefore the Son of man is Lord also of the Sabbath.

~ We have two very important facts given here and we have seen them before. The Son of Man is the Lord of the Sabbath, and the Sabbath was made for man. The question arises continually: the Sabbath day or the Lord's Day? It's a pretty important question that we see a lot of unlearned and puerile comment about around this forum on which I teach. We know the Sabbath day is part of the covenant between God and the nation Israel - because the Word of God tells us so - and we are not bound under that system of legality today - according to Holy Writ; in fact, Jesus said that Himself....

III

1 And he entered again into the synagogue; and there was a man there which had a withered hand.

2 And they watched him, whether he would heal him on the Sabbath day; that they might accuse him.

~ In Matthew, I said this man with the withered hand was planted by the Pharisees to try to catch Jesus breaking the law. A moment ago, we were in a secular place in the fields; but suddenly we're in a sacred spot at the

synagogue. We said in our previous report that we would address the Sabbath issue from inside the synagogue; well, here we are! Jesus has been healing the multitudes and they want to see if He is going to heal today. The Pharisees knew that if this man were in the way of the front door as Jesus came by, Jesus would heal him - without a doubt. Interestingly, that was really a flattering compliment paid unwittingly to Jesus. Of course, all they care about is catching Him breaking the law by healing on the Sabbath so they can kill Him! The enemy was watching for the flimsiest excuse whereby they might bring charges against Him. I think Caiaphas the high priest already had a team of special investigators conducting a thorough inquiry. What happens here doesn't fit the bill of breaking the law or they would have placed Him on trial at this time or, at least, used this as evidence when that time did come....

3 And he saith unto the man which had the withered hand, Stand forth in our midst.

4 And he saith unto them, Is it lawful to do good on the Sabbath days, or to do evil? to save life, or to kill? But they held their peace.

5 And when he had looked round about on them with anger, being grieved for the hardness of their hearts, he saith unto the man, Stretch forth thine hand. And he stretched it out: and his hand was restored whole as the other.

~ The Pharisees declined to answer – again – because they knew they would be humiliated, again! So, the Lord Jesus breaks through all of this red tape of their traditions and struck right at the heart of God's purpose for having ever given the Sabbath day to Israel in the first place. They aren't answering because they could only incriminate themselves further with ANY answer! So, Jesus looks upon them with anger – and let's just write that all down – Jesus gets angry, too! This isn't malice or forethought with rage; however, we're told He was grieved. I think Jesus carried a whole lot of grief because of the hardness of their hearts. Well, at any rate, Jesus healed this man on the Sabbath, that's clear. All of these Sabbath accounts we have are connected and should be considered together.

This is what brought the break with the religious rulers, too. A hateful crowd of leading religious fanatics of the day, known as the Pharisees, have now taken to the trail to get rid of Jesus; and they won't let up for one minute until they stand in pride underneath His cross and mock Him there about coming down. It didn't take long for Mark to get to the beginning of the plan to murder the Lord Jesus. Even so, since His hour has not yet come, people are coming to Him from everywhere and Jesus tactfully and graciously withdraws and removes Himself at this time. The biggest danger to the apostles and Jesus at this time was the crowd crushing them – not the hate from the religious rulers. The apostles and Jesus were in danger of being overwhelmed by a mob who are pressing in on all sides right now. Later, when His hour does come, Jesus will fly in the face of all opposition in Jerusalem concerning the details of how God gets this sacrifice done....

6 And the Pharisees went forth, and straightway took counsel with the Herodians against him, how they might destroy him.

7 But Jesus withdrew himself with his disciples to the sea: and a great multitude from Galilee followed him, and from Judaea,

8 And from Jerusalem, and from Idumaea, and from beyond Jordan; and they about Tyre and Sidon, a great multitude, when they had heard what great things he did, came unto him.

9 And he spake to his disciples, that a small ship should wait on him because of the multitude, lest they should throng him.

10 For he had healed many; insomuch that they pressed upon him for to touch him, as many as had plagues.

~ The desperation and suffering of the human family is unknowable, friends. We are a needy bunch of creatures. Anyone who cares anything about this so-called safari know they belong to the family of despicable me. The unclean spirits are going to acknowledge Him now, too, but we're going to hold that subject for a time when we can fully engage it. We're going to put the proper emphasis on demonism at the correct time and we're going to expose its manifestations around us. We're going to write in

some pretty large, bold letters when we get to the subject of Satan worship, too. Here, Jesus does not solicit the testimony of the underworld. It seems strange - but He didn't - and they obey His rebukes and commands, also. This should really chill your spine, actually....

11 And unclean spirits, when they saw him, fell down before him, and cried, saying, Thou art the Son of God.

12 And he straitly charged them that they should not make him known.

13 And he goeth up into a mountain, and calleth unto him whom he would: and they came unto him.

~ Let's make a note, whether we like it or not, God does the choosing of "who He would!" Jesus said, "ye have not chosen Me but I have chosen you and have ordained you that you should go and bring forth fruit; and that your fruit should remain that whatsoever ye shall ask of the Father in My Name He may give it you." Because Jesus chose them, and they didn't choose Him, that means that Jesus is automatically responsible for them, their well-being and their lives! That is a great comfort to me, and it should be a great and awesome comfort to you, too. The Lord Jesus is going to see us through this life and throughout eternity! Notice also that the ones He called responded and came to Him. Moving along, we have the final call to His apostles; this is where they, in fact became apostles. They're going out on a ministry that He does not go with them on, physically. Mark doesn't give all the details but Matthew in chapter ten did give the message and method they were to deliver and execute at this time....

14 And he ordained twelve, that they should be with him, and that he might send them forth to preach,

15 And to have power to heal sicknesses, and to cast out devils:

16 And Simon he surnamed Peter;

17 And James the son of Zebedee, and John the brother of James; and he surnamed them Boanerges, which is, The sons of thunder:

18 And Andrew, and Philip, and Bartholomew, and Matthew, and Thomas, and James the son of Alphaeus, and Thaddaeus, and Simon the Canaanite,

19 And Judas Iscariot, which also betrayed him: and they went into an house.

20 And the multitude cometh together again, so that they could not so much as eat bread.

21 And when his friends heard of it, they went out to lay hold on him: for they said, He is beside himself.

22 And the scribes which came down from Jerusalem said, He hath Beelzebub, and by the prince of the devils casteth he out devils.

23 And he called them unto him, and said unto them in parables, How can Satan cast out Satan?

24 And if a kingdom be divided against itself, that kingdom cannot stand.

25 And if a house be divided against itself, that house cannot stand.

26 And if Satan rise up against himself, and be divided, he cannot stand, but hath an end.

~ It should be fairly obvious that if Satan was behind these miracles then the satanic kingdom is divided within. Jesus wasn't doing these miracles by the devil's power, you may be sure. Jesus is present here in the second Person of the Godhead Trinity and they are accusing Him of doing these things by Satan! THAT is the unpardonable sin and how it applied to them in that day. Jesus was operating by the power of the Holy Spirit. They were rejecting two Persons of the Godhead Trinity without even realizing what they were doing. That could not occur today because Jesus isn't bodily here amongst us doing miracles that we observe in the physical realm. There is no unpardonable sin today because there is no sin Christ didn't die for on

the cross! When you come under conviction and ask God for forgiveness you will receive forgiveness. Christ died for all sins....

27 No man can enter into a strong man's house, and steal his goods, except he will first bind the strong man; and then he will steal his stuff.

28 Verily I say unto you, All sins shall be forgiven unto the sons of men, and blasphemies wherewith soever they shall blaspheme:

29 But he that shall blaspheme against the Holy Ghost hath never forgiveness, but is in danger of eternal damnation:

30 Because they said, He hath an unclean spirit.

31 There came then his brethren and his mother, and, standing without, sent unto him, calling him.

32 And the multitude sat about him, and they said unto him, Behold, thy mother and thy brethren without seek for thee.

33 And he answered them, saying, Who is my mother, or my brethren?

34 And he looked round about on them which sat about him, and said, Behold my mother and my brethren!

35 For whosoever shall do the will of God, the same is my brother, and my sister, and mother.

~ So, our Spiritual Safari ends this leg of our expedition through the entire Word of God with some people wondering who they are in the family of God. Jude and James never mention anything about being a 'half' brother to Jesus! If you are born again and saved and in Christ today, then you are closer to Him than His physical mother or brother or sisters or anyone else! That leaves us very close to Christ. I like that ~

