

<p>SERIES</p>	<p>Gospel - SEEN People have many complex reasons for struggling to connect with God. The hurts of life keep people from believing God wants them, or accepts them, or even cares. But one of the names God gave us for Himself is “the One who sees me”. (Genesis 16:13) Jesus, all God who became human, sees us in our pain, doubts and disappointments and offers His healing. Jesus sees the things that bind us, the battles we cannot win, the ways people have used us, and offers His freedom. Come find hope from the gospel of Mark as we learn that we are Seen by God.</p>
<p>BIBLE</p>	<p>Mark 3:1-6</p>
<p>TITLE/TOPIC</p>	<p>Healing church heart. Jesus sees the misuse of spiritual authority. Jesus stands with those who are used. Jesus confronts the sinner and restores the broken.</p>
<p>OVERVIEW</p>	<p>Jesus Christ is perfect, but sadly His people are not. Jesus Christ is a humble, gentle servant leader, but sadly some church leaders are not. Today we address a reality that keeps many people away from experiencing the depth of community, love and safety that God designed the Body of Christ to provide. If you have been hurt, overlooked, or used by imperfect spiritual authorities, Jesus has seen it. Jesus sees, cares, and wants to bring healing today.</p>
<p>SCRIPTURE BREAKDOWN</p>	<p>Mark: 3:1 Another time Jesus went into the synagogue, and a man with a shriveled hand was there. ²Some 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.</p> <p>Jesus sees when religious leaders miss the heart of God and use (already) hurting people for their human agendas. (1-2)</p> <p>This is the 2nd instance of Jesus handling the Sabbath Day in a way that upset the religious leaders but honored the heart of God. Sabbath is made to serve humankind, to be a blessing. Humans are not meant to be slaves to the Sabbath (with strict rules, limitations, prohibitions). Here, the religious leaders – through their misunderstanding of the Sabbath Day - are setting a trap for Jesus, looking for a reason to accuse and arrest him. These leaders knew Jesus would be drawn to help this man with a shriveled hand and heal him on the Sabbath. It is safe to say these leaders were using this disabled man for their agenda to bring Jesus down.</p> <p>³ Jesus said to the man with the shriveled hand, “Stand up in front of everyone.”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.</p> <p>Jesus calls out hypocrisy and stands in integrity with the compassionate heart of God. (3-4)</p> <p>Jesus – all knowing God – makes this situation very public. He had the disabled man stand up in front of all of them. What a battle is raging – Jesus wants to teach and show the heart of God regarding Sabbath and healing and showing compassion. The religious leaders are fighting to maintain control of religious thought and practice of the day, even though Jesus has already rebuked them with</p>

the word of God. Jesus asks another question with an obvious answer that exposes the evil hearts of these religious leaders. Is it lawful on the Sabbath to do good or evil? (GOOD) Is it lawful on the Sabbath to save life or to kill (SAVE LIFE). The issue is so obvious it must have shamed the leaders.

And this moment would also show the disabled man that Jesus stands with him and for him. Jesus does not want to shame him, but to correct the leaders. Jesus is defending those who cannot defend themselves. Jesus is using His authority to protect the vulnerable. This is the compassionate heart of God.

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

Jesus is angered at abusive religious leaders, and uses His power and authority to bring healing and restoration. (5-6)

Jesus was angry (some translations "indignant"). A righteous anger. God's truth, God's law about Sabbath, God's heart, God's compassion is being misrepresented by these religious leaders. They had stubborn hearts, proud and self-seeking, not soft hearts. After Jesus shamed them by pointing to God's desire for the Sabbath to be a day of saving life and doing good, He does exactly what these wicked leaders were hoping He would do. He heals the man, allowing him to stretch out his hand and be completely restored. All of this is public. All of this teaching and healing is Jesus showing how things are supposed to be in the community of faith.

Jesus used his power and authority to do good, to save life, to bring complete restoration to this disabled man. For this, Jesus was now the object of a plot to be arrested and murdered. The degree of wickedness in the Pharisees is great – not only would they rather the disabled man is not healed, now they want to murder the healer. Hardened, rebellious, self-centered hearts will come against the mercy and grace of God. Persecution is promised for those who follow Jesus.

GOSPEL

How does this sermon bring people to the Gospel?

Jesus is the Savior, not the church or its leaders. God designed the Church to be the community shaped by the gospel of Jesus, but the church misses the mark. All of us in the church need to stay focused on Jesus.

Jesus brings compassion, life, healing and restoration to all who turn from sin and trust in Him. Jesus stands in the true heart of God and defends the hurting.

NEXTSTEPS

Begin | Connect | Engage | Grow | Disciple

Salvation (BEGIN). Trust God, step out in faith and Connect with a Life Group. Even if people are imperfect, trust God and seek to grow with other imperfect followers of our perfect Savior. GROW – forgive religious leaders who have hurt you. Forgive as Jesus has forgiven you.