

## WEEK 9: MARK 3 - JESUS & THE PEOPLE

### HIGH SCHOOL

#### GOAL

To develop a better understanding of Mark 3:1-35

#### LESSON

**Materials Needed:** Orthodox Study Bible, whiteboard, dry erase markers

**Extended Learning Opportunities:**

*The Explanation by Blessed Theophylact of the Holy Gospel According to St. Mark* pages 31-35

*The Gospel of Mark the Suffering Servant* by Fr. Lawrence Farley pages 47-61

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### GOSPEL OF MARK - CHAPTER 3

Read Verses 1-6 and then discuss:

Once again, the Pharisees (*a specific group of Jews*) were watching Jesus to see if he would “work” on the Sabbath. Jesus is frustrated with these people for being so uncaring. They would rather see Jesus stick to the rules of the Sabbath - to not work - than to see this man with the withered hand be healed. Over and over again, Jesus tries to teach people that loving each other is more important than rigidly sticking to the rules. We have to think about why the rules exist in the first place and seek advice when we’re not sure if rules need to be bent or not. Who is a good choice to talk to when you’re not sure what to do in a situation?

Additionally, Jesus was hoping there would be someone amongst the crowd who was willing to courageously step forward and defend this man seeking to have his hand healed. But...there were none and this grieved Jesus because the people's hearts were hardened. Can you think of a time at school or with friends when a situation arose that you knew was wrong or unkind and you struggled to find the courage to stand up for what was right? What can we do to seek strength in those moments to do what is right?

Mark records that the Pharisees stormed out of the synagogue and went straight to the

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Herodians. The Herodians were the supporters of the emperor Herod the Tetrarch. Both of these groups of people, for different reasons, wanted to get rid of Jesus. They began to plot how to do this.

Verses 6-12: *Find the map in your Bible showing the Holy Land in the Time of Jesus and then find the areas mentioned in these verses.*

Everyone in the area, near and far, are now talking about Jesus. He has become so popular that He cannot go anywhere without people not only crowding around Him but also enthusiastically seeking to be healed by Him. “Take heed how Jesus gives orders to His disciples that a boat should be made ready for Him so that a multitude would not throng (*to crowd or press upon*) Him. For Jesus is the Word within you, which commands that your boat, signifying your body, should wait on Him and not set forth into the tempest of life’s affairs, lest the crowds, signifying the turmoil of life’s affairs, throng Christ within you.” (Blessed Theophylact, pg. 33)

Take a look at the map now. Look how far people traveled in order to see Jesus - from Galilee, Judea, Jerusalem, Idumea, the other side of the Jordan, Tyre, and Sidon. They didn’t have cars like we do today and they certainly didn’t have airplanes in order to get to Jesus as quickly as possible. It took a great deal of time, effort, and money to travel these great distances. The people were eager to not only see Jesus but also be healed by Him. Google maps informs us that it would take 34 hours to walk non-stop from Jerusalem to Capernaum, which is on the shore of the Sea of Galilee. There were people who came even farther away - from Idumea! It would take an enormous desire and effort to reach Jesus under these circumstances. What level of effort do we put forth in order to make it to the Divine Liturgy on Sundays to receive Holy Communion, the Body and Blood of Christ? Do we put the same level of effort towards coming to church as these people do to see Jesus?

Jesus healed an innumerable amount of people as they all sought help from Him. He did not heal these people to increase His popularity, but rather out of sincere love for them.

Verses 13-20:

After working miracles, Jesus goes and prays on a nearby mountain. (We learn from Luke 6:12 that Jesus was praying on the mountain because Mark doesn’t specifically say that Jesus was praying.) This teaches us that we should always give thanks to God through prayer for any good in our lives. Additionally, Jesus had many followers but He chooses

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to select a special 12 from the group. This also teaches us that we should always pray that worthy candidates be revealed for ordination - deacons, priests, and bishops. Even Judas is called to be a disciple, regardless of the fact that he will betray Jesus later. We are taught to see the good in each person at this very moment because Judas also worked miracles before he betrayed Jesus. Additionally, we learn that even though we may do good things now, it can all be undone by poor choices we make later. We have to constantly be striving to do everything for the glory of God and not exclusively for our own benefit. The 12 disciples were chosen in order to be constant companions of Jesus, witnesses of His teachings and miracles, and to learn directly from Him in order to be sent out (as apostles) later to teach others about God. The number 12 is also important. Jacob had 12 sons and they were the 12 tribes of Israel, the seeds of the Jewish people. Jesus also chooses 12 men to be His disciples, seeds to the renewal of His people, the Church.

Verses 21-22:

The people did not understand that Jesus had the authority to heal. They believed this only belonged to God and did not understand that Jesus is the Son of God. It's a mighty hefty claim to have the authority of God! This is not something anyone took lightly. There were those who believed and those that didn't. Those that were angry with Jesus found ways to criticize Him, believing that He was teaching false beliefs to the people. There were also those who had decided that Jesus must be possessed by a demon - "He is beside Himself." They wanted to tie Jesus up because that is what they did with anyone who was believed to be possessed by a demon. Who is Beelzebul? The devil.

Verses 23-30:

Jesus explains to the Jews that He is not demon possessed. "How can Satan cast out Satan?" Can anyone pick himself up and throw himself out? No! That's just crazy. They were suggesting there was a civil war amongst Satan's realm and that Jesus was battling against His master, which was not the case at all. How can Jesus be one of the demons, if He is casting them out of people? He is working against evil, not for them.

It is critically important that we seek forgiveness of our sins through confession. How can speaking irreverently and falsely about the Holy Spirit, who worked through Jesus, ever be forgiven if the person does not repent with sincerity?

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Verses 31-35:

Jesus rejects the claims that the world has any binding authority over Him, in this case, asking Him to stop teaching (and in turn stop His entire ministry) and leave the house. They were trying to tell Him that they were His family and He should be loyal to them (listen to them) and Jesus responds by telling them - any person who does the will of God is His brother, sister, or mother. It is of the utmost importance to follow God instead of anyone around us, including our family and friends. What does this mean for us today? Are we being told to reject our families right now? No. We must always strive to love one another, to help one another - but if we have someone in our family who is trying with all their might to keep us away from God, then we need to talk with our priest about it and continue to do all that we can for the glory of God. (Praying, going to church, fasting, seeking spiritual guidance from our priest, etc)

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## REVIEW:

- When the people started learning about the miracles Jesus was doing, there were two responses to Him. One group tried to falsely accuse Jesus of many things and the other group traveled great distances to see, hear, and be healed by Him. What should we do when we have wronged another or have falsely accused them of something? What kind of effort should we put into making it to church to receive Holy Communion?

## WEEK 9: MARK 3 - JESUS & THE PEOPLE

### MIDDLE SCHOOL

#### GOAL

To develop a better understanding of Mark 3:1-35

#### LESSON

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**Extended Learning Opportunities:**

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Additionally, Jesus was hoping there would be someone amongst the crowd who was willing to courageously step forward and defend this man seeking to have his hand healed. But...there were none and this grieved Jesus because the people's hearts were hardened. Can you think of a time at school or with friends when a situation arose that you knew was wrong or unkind and you struggled to find the courage to stand up for what was right? What can we do to seek strength in those moments to do what is right?

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Verses 6-12: *Find the map in your Bible showing the Holy Land in the Time of Jesus and then find the areas mentioned in these verses.*

Everyone in the area, near and far, are now talking about Jesus. He has become so popular that He cannot go anywhere without people not only crowding around Him but also enthusiastically seeking to be healed by Him.

Take a look at the map now. Look how far people traveled in order to see Jesus - from Galilee, Judea, Jerusalem, Idumea, the other side of the Jordan, Tyre, and Sidon. They didn't have cars like we do today and they certainly didn't have airplanes in order to get to Jesus as quickly as possible. It took a great deal of time, effort, and money to travel these great distances. The people were eager to not only see Jesus but also be healed by Him. Google maps informs us that it would take 34 hours to walk non-stop from Jerusalem to Capernaum, which is on the shore of the Sea of Galilee. There were people who came even farther away - from Idumea! It would take an enormous desire and effort to reach Jesus under these circumstances. What level of effort do we put forth in order to make it to the Divine Liturgy on Sundays to receive Holy Communion, the Body and Blood of Christ? Do we put the same level of effort towards coming to church as these people do to see Jesus?

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After working miracles, Jesus goes and prays on a nearby mountain. (We learn from Luke 6:12 that Jesus was praying on the mountain because Mark doesn't specifically say that Jesus was praying.) This teaches us that we should always give thanks to God through prayer for any good in our lives. Additionally, Jesus had many followers but He chooses to select a special 12 from the group. Even Judas is called to be a disciple, regardless of the fact that he will betray Jesus later. We are taught to see the good in each person at this very moment because Judas also worked miracles before he betrayed Jesus. Additionally, we learn that even though we may do good things now, it can all be undone by poor choices we make later. We have to constantly be striving to do everything for the glory of God and not exclusively for our own benefit. The 12 disciples were chosen in order to be constant companions of Jesus, witnesses of His teachings and miracles, and to learn directly from Him in order to be sent out (as apostles) later to teach others about God.

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The number 12 is also important. Jacob had 12 sons and they were the 12 tribes of Israel, the beginning of the Jewish people. Jesus also chooses 12 men to be His disciples, who are the beginning of the renewal of His people, the Church.

Verses 21-22:

The people did not understand that Jesus had the authority to heal. They believed this only belonged to God and did not understand that Jesus is the Son of God. It's a mighty hefty claim to have the authority of God! This is not something anyone took lightly. Those that were angry with Jesus found ways to criticize Him, believing that He was teaching false beliefs to the people. There were also those who had decided that Jesus must be possessed by a demon - "He is beside Himself." They wanted to tie Jesus up because that is what they did with anyone who was believed to be possessed by a demon. Who are the demons? They are the fallen angels. Who is Beelzebul? The devil.

Verses 23-30:

Jesus explains to the Jews that He is not demon possessed. "How can Satan cast out Satan?" Can anyone pick himself up and throw himself out? No! That's just crazy. They were suggesting there was a civil war amongst Satan's realm and that Jesus was battling against His master, which was not the case at all. How can Jesus be one of the demons, if He is casting them out of people? He is working against evil, not for them.

It is critically important that we seek forgiveness of our sins through confession. How can speaking irreverently and falsely about the Holy Spirit, who worked through Jesus, ever be forgiven if the person does not repent with sincerity?

Verses 31-35:

Jesus rejects the claims that the world has any authority over Him, in this case, asking Him to stop teaching (and in turn stop His entire ministry) and leave the house. They were trying to tell Him that they were His family and He should be loyal to them (listen to them) and Jesus responds by telling them - any person who does the will of God is His brother, sister, or mother. It is of the utmost importance to follow God instead of anyone around us, including our family and friends. What does this mean for us today? Are we being told to reject our families right now? No. We must always strive to love one another, to help one another - but if we have someone in our family who is trying with all their might to keep us away from God, then we need to talk with our priest about it and

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## REVIEW:

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## WEEK 9: MARK 3 - JESUS & THE PEOPLE

3RD - 4TH GRADE

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## REVIEW:

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## WEEK 9: MARK 3 - JESUS & THE PEOPLE

1ST - 2ND GRADE

### GOAL

To develop a better understanding of Mark 3:1-35

### LESSON

**Materials Needed:** Orthodox Children's Bible Reader

**Extended Learning Opportunities:**

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*The Gospel of Mark the Suffering Servant* by Fr. Lawrence Farley pages 47-61

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### GOSPEL OF MARK - CHAPTER 3

Read "Jesus and the Sabbath" pages 200-201:

Can you imagine if one of your hands was paralyzed? How hard would it be to do things? Pretend one of your hands can't move. (*Try picking up a crayon to color. Try picking up your snack to eat it.*) You would have to find clever ways to get yourself dressed, eat, work, and many other things only using one hand. That would be so hard!

Why do you think Jesus is upset with the Pharisees? Were they concerned about this man who had a paralyzed hand? Did they hope Jesus would heal him so his life would be easier? No! They didn't. Jesus was sad that these people were not more caring towards those around them.

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### REVIEW:

- Who did Jesus heal in this story? (*A man with a paralyzed hand*)
- How can we be more caring to our parents? To our brothers or sisters? To our teachers? To our friends?
- Who can tell me the story we learned today in their own words?

## WEEK 9: MARK 3 - JESUS & THE PEOPLE

PRE-K - KINDERGARTEN

### GOAL

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### REVIEW:

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