

Healing of the Withered Hand (Mark 3:1-6) Lord of the Sabbath II

- Jesus confronted the Pharisees because they buried the Law under tradition
- They never taught the spiritual meaning of the Law as seen with the Sabbath
- Jesus exposed their failure to understand that Sabbath was made for man
- He also revealed that He was the Lord of the Sabbath, He established it.
- Now the heart of the Pharisees & teachers of the Law is exposed in full view

I. The Malice of Unbelieving Hypocritical Hearts (3:1-2)

- In a synagogue (possibly in Capernaum) in walks a man with a withered hand
- Would Jesus go against the rules & regulations established by the rabbis? (v2)
- They watched, hoping that they could prove him a Sabbath breaker & charge him

II. Freedom, Love & Grace of Christ's Heart (3:3-4)

- Vs 3. Jesus calls the man forward to stand in front where everyone can see him.
- Then he appeals to their consciences, is it lawful on the Sabbath to do good?....
- If it was lawful to do good on other days, how much more so on the Sabbath
- Was not Israel encouraged to demonstrate the heart of the Sabbath by doing well?
- Strange that the Pharisees & teachers of the law failed to recall Isaiah 58:6-14
- God had urged Israel to use the Sabbath for the same purpose Jesus was using it

III. Hearts Exposed: Righteous Anger & Seething Hatred (3:5, 6)

- Jesus probed further, he went on and said in vs 4 “to save life or to kill”
- If it was improper to kill on the six days, surely it was improper on the Sabbath?
- Nevertheless, this doing harm & killing was exactly what these religious rulers were doing! In their hearts they were doing harm to Messiah, in killing Him.
- Even then, they had opportunity to repent, but instead they remained silent
- Jesus looked around them & He was angry but He was also deeply saddened (v5)
- Jesus reveals His heart, and tells the man to stretch out his hand & He heals it
- Right before these hypocrites Christ displays the tender, merciful heart of God.
- They responded with hatred rather than gratitude; wickedness, not worship (v6)
- Vs 6 they went and plotted with the Herodians how they might destroy Him
- The enemies of God & of Christ will always unite under this one common goal
- They will put aside whatever their differences to rid the world of Jesus.