

Mark 3:1-12 – Christ: Exterminate Him Or Embrace Him

TSK, GreekLexicon, Handfuls, JFB, Poole, Trapp, Henry, Geneva, Calvin, Barnes, Clarke, Gill, Reinecker, Robertson, Brothers and Sisters in Jesus Christ: There are 2 common types of people in the church: **Those who oppose whatever is proposed, and those who understand and play their part in the life and enlargement of the church.** And this is not new. In days of Jesus there were those who **were fierce antagonists 反对者 to Christ.** They rejected his preaching and his person. And then there were **those who listened, learned, and grew.**

You will hear more about these 2 groups from God's Word. This is a most appropriate flow after a reminder of Jesus' advent.

Our headings are:

Some wanted to exterminate (杀死, 消灭) Christ

Some wanted to embrace Christ

Our goals are: **That you will be moved to embrace Christ, support his people, and evangelize those who want to exterminate him so they might embrace him.**

Some wanted to exterminate Christ

1 And He entered the synagogue 会堂 again, and a man was there who had a **withered hand 枯干的手**.

1. On a Sabbath 安息日 Jesus did what was normal-he went to worship. He preached a sermon there in the synagogue as usual.

He then desired to do a miracle, not just to show his mercy to his people, but to confirm the word he preached. Provisionally (按着上帝护理的旨意), there was a man with a withered hand. His disease was not from birth. His hand withered later in life.

2. Because Jesus was not enslaved by the letter of the law as the Pharisees 法利赛人 (he knew how to perfectly obey the intention of the Sabbath law, as he made it), he decided to do what was proper according to the law; he decided to heal the man. Luke said that it was the man's right hand that was withered, so the loss was greater. **There is some symbolism 象征意义 in this – and that would be that the right hand was used to receive things.**

2 So they watched Him closely, **whether He would heal him on the Sabbath,** so that they might accuse Him.

3. Unfortunately, the eyes of those who loved the letter of the law (rather than the intention of the law) were on him to see if he would heal the man. They were trying to find fault with Jesus and build a case against him. Shouldn't they have been praying for the healing of this man? Shouldn't they have prayed that Jesus might have been inclined to heal him? But the goals of these religious men were different.

3 And He said to the man who had the withered hand, "**Step forward.**"

4. But Jesus was not intimidated 被威胁 by their evil intentions, and he ordered the man to step forward.

4 Then He said to them, "Is it lawful on the Sabbath to do good or to do evil, to save life or to kill?" **But they kept silent.**

5. He then challenged the Pharisees. He asked them if it was good to do good things on the Sabbath. But no one responded. They kept quiet because they knew that they would rescue their own donkey (or sheep, Matthew 12) that fell into a pit on the Sabbath...yet they were opposing the rescue of one of God's children who was trapped in a pit of helplessness. **What a disappointment to the Shepherd of Israel. The undershepherds had nothing to say!** They cared more for their physical sheep than the spiritual ones. They learned nothing from Ezekiel 34. They came with sacrifice, but not love.

Hosea 6:6 For I desire mercy and not sacrifice (祭祀) ...

Sadly, Christ's correction of their doctrine (教义) had no impact on their lives. They were fighting for their own ruin.

5 And when He had looked around at them **with anger,** being **grieved by the hardness** of their hearts, He said to the man, "Stretch out your hand." And he stretched it out, and his hand was restored as whole as the other.

6. This made Jesus angry – righteously angry because sin was committed. (Not helping the needy was an awful sin.) This also grieved him. He **stared** at his undershepherds in a condemning way! And then Christ showed mercy to the man with the withered hand and **healed him.**

6 Then the Pharisees went out and immediately plotted with the Herodians (希律一党的人) against Him, how they might destroy Him.

7. The Pharisees were ignorant-destitute of 极其欠缺 truth – from the Revealer of truth, but they didn't want to learn. They

assumed they knew everything, concluded that Jesus was sinning, and plotted with the Herodians to kill him. The leader of God's people wanted to kill the Son of the God of the church. And who were the Herodians? The Herodians were Jews who supported the Jewish King Herod –Rome's puppet king. The Pharisees had a fierce hatred of the Herodians, but the Lord was their mutual enemy. (How serious that hate was of Christ!) The Pharisees and the Herodians would not even talk to each other, but they united in common evil. And what hypocrites (假冒为善者) they were: They attacked the Lord for breaking the Sabbath, but thought nothing about gathering together on the Sabbath to plot to kill him. They couldn't wait for the next day. Sadly, these two groups never stopped trying to kill the Lord. They simply changed their method.

Matthew 22:16 And they sent to Him their disciples with the Herodians, saying, "Teacher, we know that **You are true, and teach the way of God in truth;** nor do You care about anyone, for You do not regard the person of men.

They did not believe that he was a true teacher, but it was part of their new method of trapping and destroying him. Again...

Mark 12:13 Then they sent to Him some of the Pharisees and the Herodians, to catch Him in *His* words.

8. Lessons:

a. Know that there are always those who will try to stop you from doing good. They will do so by force, by insults, by intimidation, or by using the law (like banning people from in front of abortion clinics, or from speaking the truth about false religions).

b. Avoid those like the Pharisees who pretend to be teachers but have little knowledge of the Word and how to apply it.

c. Know that it is right and necessary to become angry when you see God's law and worship violated. It is shameful to turn a blind eye (视而不见) to adultery... Sabbath breaking, etc. But don't let your anger make you sin by making you bitter or making you reacting in a violent way. **Anger must motivate to a right response.**

Ephesians 4:26 "Be angry, and do not sin..."

d. If your wife is seriously sick on the Sabbath, don't come to church. Care for her. You are not breaking the Sabbath by caring for those who are in need. **To not do right when it is required is to do evil.**

Matthew 25:45 "Then He will answer them, saying, 'Assuredly, I say to you, inasmuch as you did not do *it* to one of the least of these, you did not do *it* to Me。王要回答他们：‘我實在告訴你們，這些事你們既然沒有作在一個最小的身上，就是沒有作在我的身上了。’"

e. Do you know how much Jesus loves you? He heals the one who is hurting – all hurts. He is the Good Shepherd.

f. It is with spiritual significance that you have this account recorded. Jesus could have just healed the man (who was possibly sick because of sin) outside, but chose to heal him in the synagogue, on the Sabbath, with his stretching out his hand.

Jesus similarly wants you to stretch out your dry withered hand when you come to the Lord's house each Lord's Day to receive nourishment (营养) for your souls. You must come with the desire to receive from God. Do you want spiritual healing? Reach out by faith (hands of the soul) and receive his words of rebuke and comfort.

Some wanted to embrace Christ

7 But Jesus withdrew with His disciples to the sea. And a great multitude from Galilee followed Him, and from Judea 8 and Jerusalem and Idumea and beyond the Jordan; and those from Tyre and Sidon, a great multitude, when they heard how many things He was doing, came to Him.

1. There was no use in Jesus endangering himself with people planning to kill him. That would have hindered his work. His time to die had not come yet. He had to train his disciples...send them out...bring them back...see their areas of struggle...retrain them...and send them out again. He had to impart wisdom and teach proper interpretation of the Old Testament. So he moved from the wrath of the wicked, away to the Sea of Galilee area. (There are 11 recorded occasions he had to avoid death.) **He left the ones who vilified (中伤, 毁谤) him and went to the ones who valued him.**

2. There large crowds followed him to hear him preach and confirm what he said by great miracles.

They were from Galilee ...where he was.

They were from Jerusalem-Southwest. Not all from Jerusalem were snobbish 势利小人. They wanted to hear truth also.

They were from Idumea-the Greek word for Edom-the land of Esau, **Southeast** of Israel. This was the land that God pronounced total destruction for their wickedness in the book of Obadiah. Edom was a pagan (异教徒) nation.

They were from beyond Jordan-Northeast. This often refers to the idol worshipping (拜偶像) nations.

They were from Tyre and Sidon-north. Both countries were known for their opulence 富足 and idolatry 偶像崇拜. Yet they came to hear Jesus.

No one came from the **West** because it was the Mediterranean Sea. The great variety of listeners was a harbinger 预告者, 先驱 of things to come...when Jesus would send his disciples to the ends of the earth to make disciples of all the nations.

Luke 13:28 "There will be weeping and gnashing of teeth, when you see Abraham and Isaac and Jacob

and all the prophets in the kingdom of God, and yourselves thrust out. 29 "They will come **from the east and the west, from the north and the south, and sit down in the kingdom of God.**

Did God not say to Abraham: "In Your seed all the nations of the earth would be blessed?" Gen 18.

9 So He told His disciples that a small boat should be kept ready for Him because of the multitude, lest they should crush Him.

3. Look at the wisdom of Jesus. He wasn't overwhelmed with the attention. He ordered that a boat be nearby so he could avoid the crush. Standing in a boat was helpful to carry of his voice by the wind also.

10 For He healed many, so that as many as **had afflictions** pressed about Him to touch Him.

4. Jesus healed many of their afflictions. This word "afflictions" is usually translated whippings 鞭打. So they were probably those who were mistreated (被苦待) by others. (Slavery was common in neighboring nations.) He healed some of demons. Henry: Diseases were cured and demons were conquered.

11 And the unclean spirits (污鬼), whenever they saw Him, fell down before Him and cried out, saying, "**You are the Son of God.**"

5. What was interesting was the response of the demons: Whenever Jesus confronted them, they caused the man they possessed (被鬼附的人) to bow down before him and confess that he was the Son of God. This confirmed to those who heard the truth about Jesus.

12 But He sternly warned them (*the people who came to be healed*) that they should not make Him known.

6. Yet, Jesus required that the people he healed keep quiet about the miracles. He did this many times. Why? Jesus did not want to draw more attention to miracles as they hindered his preaching of the Gospel. And Jesus wanted them to go about their regular duties.

7. Lessons:

a. Use wisdom in deciding with whom you might have a discussion. Sometimes you have to walk away from fools. Some conversations are not worth the time. Be discerning.

b. See again the intention of these great miracles to those who were burdened by afflictions: It was to show that **those who are spiritually sick and trapped by the Devil can be set free**, and are set free as they run to the Savior. Jesus confirmed this interpretation.

c. If demons know that Jesus is the Son of God and confessed it, what excuse do men have for denying that Jesus is the Christ? Answer? They have no excuse and will justly be condemned.

Conclusion:

The Pharisees were wrong in their understanding of the law and the doctrine. Their ignorance caused them to want to kill Jesus. On the other hand, there were those who wanted to hear truth and experience the strengthening of their faith by witnessing or experiencing miracles.

Brothers and Sisters in Jesus Christ: As Christ's children I know you don't want to exterminate him. But...

1. Knowing that there are many who want to exterminate Christ and his message in this world, does your life that was changed by his almighty power, convince (说服) men of Christ's existence and blessing? Has your life been transformed without doubt?

2. Knowing that there are many who want to exterminate Christ and his message in this world, do you use your lips to refute their false claims, so that men are without excuse? Do you defend the faith? Can you argue for the claims of the Bible?

3. What will encourage you to use your lips and lives to honor Christ? You must remember his love that made him die for you on the cross.

Finally, maybe you have had a withered soul, one that could not provide sustenance for life. Jesus can remove that heart today and give you a renewed one. He can do that because he took the full punishment for sins when he died on the cross. Without a renewed soul (被更新的灵), you will be condemned to hell.