

Scripture Text

Mark 3

Context

God's promises to Israel are coming to fulfilment as Jesus has begun His ministry, "the Kingdom of God is at Hand" (Mark 1:15). Tension has been building between Jesus and the Pharisees which culminates in 3:6 with the Pharisees planning how to destroy Him.

Observation and Meaning

- What are some of the miracles through which the Holy Spirit gives evidence about who Jesus is?
- Why was Jesus angry with the Pharisees in verse 5? How is it ironic that they were accusing Jesus of working on the Sabbath?
- What is the significance of Jesus choosing 12 apostles in verse 14? On what basis did He choose them? What did he choose them for?
- In verse 22, the Pharisees have come to the conclusion that Jesus must do His miracles under the authority of Satan. Why have they come to that conclusion? How does Jesus show the ridiculousness of that claim?
- After showing them how ridiculous what they have said is, how does Jesus respond to the Pharisees rejecting Him by explaining away the evidence of who He is, to Satan?

Big Idea

The King's new Israel is not who we expect, as many who believe they are in the family will discover they are not, because they do not accept the evidence they see with their own eyes that Jesus is the Son of God.

Connecting to the Bible's storyline

Jesus begins the new Israel by choosing the 12 apostles who represent the 12 tribes. This is the beginning of a messianic people who will be with God for eternity.

Application

- How can we let our religious rules become more important to us than people?
- What are some ways we can be tempted to resist the conviction of the Holy Spirit or explain away some of Jesus tougher demands?
- The Pharisees believed they were on the "inside" with God. Jesus own family were even working against Him at this point. How does Jesus warning apply even to those who may even be frequent church-goers?
- In what ways are Jesus words in verse 35 a comfort to us? How can we be brothers and sisters and mothers to one another at RHC?

Guide for Study Leaders

Use the C.O.M.A. (Context, Observation, Meaning, Application) method to work through the biblical text.

Context

Pay attention to the surrounding verses, paragraphs, chapters, events, etc. to see how this passage fits within the context of this particular book of the Bible.

Note how this passage fits within the larger storyline of the whole Bible, i.e. how God is saving a people through Jesus Christ to live under his rule in his place.

Observation & Meaning

Make careful observations of the biblical text. Notice details such as linking words (eg. "for", "if", "therefore"), repetition, dialogue, narrative, OT quotations, etc.

To understand the meaning of the biblical text, we need to discern the author's purpose or intent: Why is the biblical author writing this?

Helpful questions to ask include:

Who is writing and to whom?

What is the situation of the author and of the readers?

Are we made aware of any problems that need to be addressed?

Are there any repeated themes, or a single idea that holds everything together?

Application

Apply God's word to the heart. Move beyond merely addressing circumstances and behaviour by asking good "heart" questions. For example: Why do we do what we do? What do we really desire?

Always connect the gospel to application. For example, what difference does knowing Christ make to our obedience to God?

Ask what the passage teaches us about God, ourselves, salvation in Christ, the church, the world, etc.