

THIRTY THINGS YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT JESUS  
#12 | THE MAN WITH THE WITHERED HAND  
MATTHEW 12:9-21, MARK 3:1-12, LUKE 6:6-11

SCANDALOUS ETHICS | MARK 3:1-5

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- The Pharisees had one goal which became their only focus: taking Jesus to court and sentencing Him to death (v. 2).
- The Pharisees delighted in the suffering of the man with the withered hand, because his pain could be the means to their end.
- Religious zeal must avoid two extremes: a humanism which puts man above God, and a Theism that devalues life and ignores the human condition. For the Pharisees, their Rabbinical tradition was more important than the condition of the man with the withered hand.
- Jesus, knowing the trap, moves forward nonetheless. He will not be constrained by the conventions of men.
- The Pharisees “kept silent” on the words of Jesus (v. 4) because this statement hit the heart of the matter of Sabbath Law, but was at odds with Rabbinic law.
- Jesus was grieved and angry. Too often, Christians view anger as “unchristlike.”

STRANGE ENGAGEMENTS | MARK 3:6

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- The alliance with the Herodians was a strange alliance. Pharisees were anti-Herod, looking for a cataclysmic Messianic Kingdom to overthrow Herod (and the Roman Empire upon which Herod rested).
- Sadducees and Herodians had the same theological views, but many Sadducees would not have been Herodian because they were pro-Hashmonean (Maccabean), thus anti-Herod. However, both Sadducees and Herodians would have supported Israeli sovereignty through building a Jewish government.
- In the end, the desire to destroy Jesus was more important for the Pharisees than remaining true to their values (thus Luke 6:11 says they were “anoia” (without thinking, or “mad”).

STIFLED EXCITEMENT | MARK 3:7-12

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- The vicinity of v. 8 is huge. Jesus’ fame had spread far and wide.
- Many people were crowding about Him to be healed, and He was providing every healing for them, none being left out.

- Demonic spirits were shouting, “You are the Son of God!” This is far different than having faith in the Son of God (as in 1 John 5:11). Faith is a verb, and these unclean spirits were not having faith in the Son of God.
- Reasons a proclamation of Jesus as Son of God was not beneficial:
  - This was something the Jewish nation itself needed to do.
  - A proclamation of Jesus as Messiah at this time would result in a premature crucifixion (before Daniel’s prophesied 69 weeks had been completed).
  - The demons were making this proclamation under the leadership of Satan, because it would promote Satan’s agenda and thwart God’s agenda. *Not everything that sounds religious is of God.*

SCRIPTURAL EXPLANATION | MATTHEW 12:17-21

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- The prohibition against announcing Jesus as Messiah is explained by Matthew, using Isaiah 42:1-4.
- According to Isaiah, the Messiah would—
  - Be the beloved of God, pleasing to Him. *This had been fulfilled.*
  - Proclaim judgment to the nations. *This had not been fulfilled.*
  - Not enter into a quarrelsome debate or shouting match with His enemies. *This was being fulfilled.*
  - Not harm the weakest in order to accomplish His agenda. *This was being fulfilled.*
  - “Send forth judgment unto victory” (v. 20, KJV). *This had not been fulfilled.*
- Verse 21 is not a quote from Isaiah 42, but either Matthew’s own conclusion to the passage, or his own summary of Isaiah 42. In light of Isaiah, this should be “the nations,” not, “the gentiles.”