

THEY WATCHED HIM

MARK 3:1-12

Text:

Introduction:

When the Lord God told Eli that he was going to kill his sons, take the priesthood from his family, and destroy his family because he indulged his sons in their wickedness, he said:

1 Samuel 2:35-36

³⁵ And I will raise me up a faithful priest, *that* shall do according to *that* which *is* in mine heart and in my mind: and I will build him a sure house; and he shall walk before mine anointed for ever. ³⁶ And it shall come to pass, *that* every one that is left in thine house shall come *and* crouch to him for a piece of silver and a morsel of bread, and shall say, Put me, I pray thee, into one of the priests' offices, that I may eat a piece of bread.

God fulfilled his Word in sending his Son to be a merciful, faithful, obedient High Priest over the house of God, before who everyone and everything in heaven, earth, and hell will bow.

The third chapter of Mark opens with the Lord in his Father's house doing his Father's business, according to his Father's will. Here, while the Pharisees watched him so that they might accuse him, the Lord healed in the

synagogue on the Sabbath day "a man there which had a withered hand."

Notice:

1. THE PLACE OF HOPE (VS. 1)

Mark 3:1

¹ And he entered again into the synagogue; and there was a man there which had a withered hand.

The house of God should be a place of hope.

We don't know if this man came to the house of God on a regular basis, or because he knew the Lord was going to be there that day and came hoping to be healed by Him.

Whatever his reasons were we do not know, but we do know the Saviour's reason for being there.

I say today that the house of God should be a place that God's people gather to worship God, and a place of hope for needy sinners.

A. This is a place where God meets with men and men meet with God.

Matthew 18:20

²⁰ For where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them.

1 Corinthians 3:16

¹⁶ Know ye not that ye are the temple of God, and *that* the Spirit of God dwelleth in you?

That is why it's not a place of entertainment.

2. A PICTURE OF HATRED (VS. 2)

Mark 3:2

² And they watched him, whether he would heal him on the sabbath day; that they might accuse him.

These Pharisees had no compassion on this man they only were concerned about their conspiracy.

Matthew 12:10

¹⁰ And, behold, there was a man which had *his* hand withered. And they asked him, saying, Is it lawful to heal on the sabbath days? that they might accuse him.

A. We see the depravity and deceitfulness of the human heart

These things happened on the Sabbath day. They did not take place in a bar room, or a back alley, but in the house of God! Men who were assembled in the name of God, supposedly to hear the Word of God and worship God, plotted to destroy the Son of God! These men who pretended to be so strict, so sanctimonious, so very precise about the things of God, sat in the house Of God with malicious hearts, plotting murder!

We must realize that there are always people watching us in order that they may find fault with us and think less of the Saviour.

Here are a few guides to follow:

- Seek in all things to do the will of God and to live for the glory of God.
- Try never to give the enemies of our God occasion to blaspheme.
- Do nothing that violates the law of God or principles of righteousness.
- Always seek to do that which is good for and never injurious to others.
- In all things, seek to be governed by love for Christ and one another.

Read: (Ephesians 4:17-32; 5:1-5)

3. THE POWER OF HEAVEN (VS. 3-6)

Mark 3:3-6

³ And he saith unto the man which had the withered hand, Stand forth. ⁴ And he saith unto them, Is it lawful to do good on the sabbath days, or to do evil? to save life, or to kill? But they held their peace. ⁵ And when he had looked round about on them with anger, being grieved for the hardness of their hearts, he saith unto

the man, Stretch forth thine hand. And he stretched *it* out: and his hand was restored whole as the other. ⁶ And the Pharisees went forth, and straightway took counsel with the Herodians against him, how they might destroy him.

Our Lord had come to the synagogue on an errand of mercy. He was not about to let these Pharisees turn him aside from his mission.

- A. A Command Given (vs 3)
- B. A Condemning Question (vs 4)
- C. A Contemptible Glare (vs. 5)
- D. A Compassionate Grace (vs. 5)
- E. A Conspiracy Executed (vs. 6)