

LIFE OF A SERVANT**Jesus' Chosen Family Mark 3**

“For whoever does the will of God is my brother and my sister and mother.” Mark 3:35

Day 1: Read Mark 3:1–6.

1. Why were the Pharisees scrutinizing Jesus' actions toward the man with the shriveled hand? To what ironic end does their scrutiny ultimately lead? (vs. 6)
2. How is the healing of the man a picture of salvation through Jesus? (Ephesians 2:8–9; James 2:5) What did Jesus do? What did the man do?
3. While Jesus is not minimizing the importance of keeping the Sabbath, what does he emphasize is the purpose of the Sabbath? (vs. 4)
4. What is Jesus' response to the Pharisees, and why is his reaction so intense? (vs. 5; Isaiah 29:13; and another Sabbath healing that annoyed the Pharisees—Luke 13:14–16)
5. Before we easily dismiss the Pharisees' rigid “righteousness”, can you think of a time when you were so invested in being right(eous) that you failed to show love to someone?

Day 2: Read Mark 3:7– 30.

6. Read about and write down the different responses by people to the person of Jesus.

Passage	Group	Who did they think Jesus was?	What is their response to Jesus?
vss. 7–10	The crowd		
vs. 11	Evil spirits		
vs. 21	Jesus' family		
vss. 22, 30	Teachers of the law		

7. Are there sometimes ways that your response to Jesus is like one of the responses listed above? We cannot be indifferent about Jesus. He is either mad, bad, or truly Divine, as the gospels proclaim. From this chapter of Mark, write down some divine truths about Jesus.

Day 3: Read Mark 3:13–19.

8. What were the three purposes for which Jesus chose the twelve apostles?
 vs. 14 (see Acts 4:13):
 vs. 14:
 vs. 15:

9. Was there a significance to the number 12? (Matthew 19:28) What do his choices of them (and us) tell us about Jesus' grace? Are there any surprises on the list?
10. The twelve listed in this passage were designated "apostles" with special authority. Although we are not apostles, we are called to be disciples of Christ. How is our election and purpose similar to the apostles? (vs.13; Ephesians 1:4–5; 2:10)

Day 4: Read Mark 3:22–30.

11. The teachers of the law no longer veil their disdain for Jesus in questions; now they pronounce a harsh judgment, claiming that the source of Jesus' power is Satan. What does Jesus say to dispel the absurdity of this accusation? (vss. 23–26)
12. Who comes into the strong man's (Satan) house to bind him and take possession of the goods? What does this parable illustrate? (Isaiah 49:24–26; 1 John 3:8)
13. In light of the Pharisees' accusation, Jesus brings up the concept of blasphemy against the Holy Spirit or the "unpardonable sin". What is that sin? (vss. 28–30. See also Numbers 15:30; Hebrews 6:4–6; 10:26.)
14. What is the assurance that is given? (vs. 28; John 6:37; 1 Timothy 1:13–14) What should this prompt us to do? (1 John 1:9; Hebrews 3:12–13)

Day 5: Read Mark 3:20–21; 31–35.

15. Is Jesus being insensitive or harsh to his family? What do Jesus' response towards his own family in John 19:26–27 and the Pharisees in Mark 7:9–12 reveal about his view of family ties?
16. How is this well-meaning demand by Jesus' family just as dangerous as the Beelzebub accusation by the teachers of the law? How might you be trying subtly, as Jesus' family did, to "take charge of him"? (vs. 21; Mark 8:33)
17. In this passage, Jesus redefines the concept of family. What is the only requirement to be in God's family? (vs.35) Is this concept comforting to you? Why or why not?
18. In Mark 3 we catch some glimpses of Jesus' family photo album, and the snapshots are not all birthday and wedding photo-ops. What's the cost of being in those 5x7 glossies, both to the apostles, as well as you and me? (Romans 8:17)