### Mark

## Chapter 3

1On another occasion, he entered a synagogue where there happened to be a man with a withered hand 2Well, [the Pharisees] were watching [Jesus] closely to see if he would cure him on the Sabbath, because they were trying to find something that they could accuse him of doing wrong.  
  
3However, [Jesus] said to the man with the withered hand:  
  
 ‘Get up and come into the center [of the room].’  
  
4Then he asked everyone there:  
  
 ‘Is it legal to do something good or bad, or to save a life or destroy it on the Sabbath?’  
  
But no one would answer.  
  
5Then, after looking around at them angrily (because he was saddened by the dullness of their hearts), he said to the man:  
  
 ‘Now, stretch out your hand.’  
  
So he stretched it out... And his hand was restored!  
  
6Well, right away the Pharisees went outside and met with the followers of Herod, and they started talking about ways to destroy him.  
  
  
7Meanwhile, Jesus and his disciples got up and walked out to the sea, followed by a huge crowd that had come from all around Galilee and Judea. 8For people were coming to him from as far away as JeruSalem, Idumea, the other side of the JorDan, and the area around Tyre and Sidon. Huge numbers came to him when they heard of the things that he was doing.  
  
9Well, to keep the crowds at bay, [Jesus] had instructed his disciples to always have a little boat available for him. 10For because he cured so many that had terrible diseases, people were literally falling on him just to touch him!  
  
11And when unclean spirits saw him, they’d bow low before him and shout:  
  
 ‘You’re the Son of The God!’  
  
12However, he scolded them and warned them not to expose him.  
  
  
  
13Then [Jesus] walked up a mountain, where he called for those whom he’d chosen, 14and he formed a [special] group from these 12 that he started calling Apostles (Sent Ones), that were to stay with him. Thereafter, he also sent them out to preach, 15and he gave them the power to cast out demons.  
  
16The names of those in the group of 12 that he formed were:  
  
 • Simon (Peter),  
 • 17James (son of ZebediOu), and  
 • his brother John (he called them BoanErges, which means Sons of Thunder),  
 • 18Andrew,  
 • Philip,  
 • BarTholomew ([NathaniEl]),  
 • Matthew,  
 • Thomas,  
 • James (son of AlphaEus),  
 • ThadDaeus (Judas),  
 • Simon the CanaNaean, and  
 • 19Judas IsCariot (who later betrayed him).  
  
  
  
Well, whenever he went into a house after that, 20so many people would show up, that they couldn’t even eat a meal! 21And when [Jesus’] relatives heard what was happening, they tried to take him away, because they said that he’d lost his mind!  
  
22There were also some scribes that had come down from JeruSalem who were telling people he was [under the influence of] BeElZebub, and that he was using ‘the ruler of the demons to cast out the demons.’  
  
23So he called [the scribes] to him and he reasoned with them using [these] parables:  
  
 ‘How can the Opposer throw out the Opposer?  
 24For a kingdom divided cannot stand.  
 25Nor can a house that’s divided.  
 26So, if the Opposer is divided,  
 He cannot stand and he’s reaching his end.  
  
 27‘Also, no one can enter a mighty man’s house  
 And rob him of all his things  
 Unless he first ties him up…  
 Only then can he loot his house.  
  
 28‘So I tell you this as the truth:  
  
 ‘Sons of men can be forgiven for all,  
 No matter what sins that they might commit  
 Or whatever blasphemies they speak.  
 29But whoever blasphemes [God’s] Holy Breath  
 Won’t be forgiven throughout the age,  
 And it remains a sin throughout the ages.’  
  
30Of course, [Jesus] was saying this to them because they’d accused him of having an unclean spirit.  
  
31Meanwhile, [Jesus’] mother and brothers had arrived and were standing outside, so they asked [someone] to call for him, 32because there was a crowd sitting around him at the time.  
  
Therefore, someone went up to him and said:  
  
 ‘Look! Your mother and brothers are outside and they’re looking for you!’  
  
33But he said to them all:  
  
 ‘Just who are my mother and brothers?’  
  
34Then he looked at those who were sitting around him in a circle and said:  
  
 ‘Look… My mother and brothers!  
 35For, all that do the will of our God  
 Are truly my brothers, sisters, and mother.’