

The Compassion of Jesus (Mark 3:7-12)

- Up until this point Jesus has had four clashes with the Pharisees.
- The clash on the Sabbath with Jesus' disciples and the withered hand was climatic
- The Pharisees together with the Herodians planned now to destroy Jesus.
- Picking of grain and healing on the Sabbath were unforgivable for the Pharisees
- As the pressure mounted Jesus withdrew to the seashore with his disciples
- Crowds came to Him from everywhere, to find relief from their suffering

I. What Jesus Does (3:7-11)

- Some hated Jesus enough to kill Him, others came from all over to find Him
- In spite of the hatred from religious leaders, the people still came driven by need
- The crowd was so great pressing on Jesus that He had a boat ready for safety (9)
- Note the wisdom of Christ, He made provision for His safety with the boat
- Though many only wanted relief from their suffering, they still came to Jesus
- Driven by needs & wonderful testimonies they heard, they came expectant
- Christ healed many of them, though He knew their hearts, He had compassion
- If Christ had mercy on them, we should realize He will be merciful to us also
- We may not have physical infirmities, but the deadliest disease of all is sin
- Until we see how needy we are, we will not come; may God show us our need

II, What Jesus Said (3:11, 12)

- Again Jesus encountered demon possessed people that shrieked in His presence
- A powerful picture that Jesus, the light of the world, drives out darkness.
- Jesus would not allow them to keep on saying He was the Son of God. Why?
- Saying the exact name of a person was a way of trying to gain mastery over him
- Jesus would not allow the demons to testify & try to exert their authority
- There are a number of reasons Jesus would not allow them to say who He was
 - 1) Person & work of Jesus are so holy & exalted; a demon was filthy & wicked
 - 2) The title "Son of God" implied that Jesus was the long expected Messiah
- Their ideas of the Messiah were nationalist & they need to be corrected
- The time to proclaim this publicly had not yet arrived so Jesus silenced them
 - 3) The Scribes were telling people that Jesus & the demons were allies
- This would be worsened by the demonic testimony of who Jesus really was.