

Mark 3:7-12
Jesus Has Mercy on the Imperfect
1/30/22

ILL: Bill Welsh is the pastor of a church in **Desert Hot Springs, CA**. And, he says that a couple in his church has a child who often suffers **sudden** seizures. These seizures are **violent and painful**, not only for the child but also for his parents who see him suffer. Nevertheless, this family regularly attends church, and the father always holds his boy during the service.

Now, one Sunday morning during worship, the child suddenly seized and writhed painfully. So, his father **gently** lifted him and carried him to the back of the sanctuary. He stood there **rocking** the child tenderly, speaking to him lovingly until finally the seizure **stopped**. There was **no sign** of embarrassment or frustration in the father's face, only **compassion** for his hurting son.

And, Welsh says, **"In that moment, while I was preaching, I was preached to. I heard God speak to my heart and say, 'That's the way I love you through your imperfections. I'm not embarrassed to have people know that you are my child!'"**

RN: Do our imperfections disgust God? Or, does He **pull us to** Himself? Do our imperfections shame God? Or, does He take us deep into the **security** of His love? Do our imperfections frustrate God? Or, does He patiently **love us through** our failures?

AN: God doesn't cut us off, b/c of our imperfections. Instead, He offers us ways to **conquer** them. And, as we struggle w/ our imperfections, He gently, tenderly, lovingly **walks w/ us into** the security of His Grace and acceptance.

BI: Jesus has Mercy on everyone who places Faith in Him, even **imperfect** Faith.
Please turn in your Bibles to Mk 3:7-12.

- I. Today, we'll see how Jews and Pagans **stream to** Jesus.
- II. And, we'll see why Jesus **prepares** for an escape.
- III. Finally, we'll see when the demons try to **spite** Jesus.

Jesus has Mercy on the Imperfect.

*Mk 3:7-6:6a is the 2nd major section of Mark's Gospel, and it's called Jesus' "**Later Galilean Ministry**." And, this section shows how Jesus' ministry keeps on growing in an atmosphere of excitement as well as hostility.*

*In this section, it's also especially important to see how Jesus **dominates** demons, b/c His power clearly shows that Jesus is **the Christ**. IOW, Jesus actions show that the **KOG** has come, and He's knocking Satan for a loop b/c of it.*

*What's more, in this section, Jesus' Followers experience life in the eye of a **spiritual hurricane**, b/c they intensely experience Jesus' thrilling popularity as well as His frightening persecution.*

(TRN) In (7-8), Jews and Pagans **stream to** Jesus in the wilderness.

Mark 3:7–8 (NASB95) ⁷ *Jesus withdrew to the sea with His disciples; and a great multitude from Galilee followed; and [also] from Judea, ⁸ and from Jerusalem, and from Idumea, and beyond the Jordan, and the vicinity of Tyre and Sidon, a great number of people heard of all that He was doing and came to Him.*

(7-8) Jesus and His Followers move from **Capernaum** to the area around the **Sea of Galilee**. He wants a break from the dangers and the demands of ministry.

A. But, **Mobs** of needy people keep coming out of the woodwork, b/c of the healing and the deliverance from demons that Jesus is ministering to the despairing.

1. **Hundreds** and maybe **1,000s** are coming to Him from all over Galilee. And, **100s** maybe **1,000s** are coming to Him from all over Judea and Jerusalem in the south.

2. **Hundreds** maybe **1,000s** are coming to Him from **Idumea** **120** miles even further to the south.

3. And, **100s** maybe **1,000s** are coming from areas across the **Jordon** to the east, and from the coastal **Phoenician** cites of **Tyre** and **Sidon** **50** miles to north.

B. The Mobs are a **motley crew** of Jews and Pagans: People of all ranks and conditions, people, who would only mix while doing business, if then.

1. But, the power of their needs is overriding their normal distaste for one another. A healing, delivering **Prophet** has risen among them. And, they need His mercy.

C. What's more, Jesus' popularity is passing up the Baptizer's popularity by light-years. The Baptizer only drew Jews from Jerusalem and Judea, but Jesus is drawing Jews and Pagans from **everywhere**.

1. As such, Jesus fulfills prophecy: **Isaiah 49:5–6 (NASB95)** ⁵ *And now says the LORD, who formed Me [God's suffering Servant] from the womb to be His Servant, to bring Jacob back to Him, so that Israel might be gathered to Him (For I am honored in the sight of the LORD, And My God is My strength),*

⁶ *[God] says, "It is too small a thing that You should be My Servant to raise up the tribes of Jacob and to restore the preserved ones of Israel; I will also make You a light of the nations, so that My salvation may reach to the end of the earth."*

2. IOW, God not only draws the Jews to His Love and Mercy through Jesus, but He draws **Pagans** to His Love and Mercy through Jesus as well.

D. ILL: A **Man** was **deeply insecure** about his Salvation. So, he visited his pastor's home to get some help. But, his **Pastor** wasn't there, b/c was going on **vacation** and had already left for the airport.

Now, the Man caught up w/ his Pastor at the airport, but as he did the **Airline** ordered all passengers **to board** on the pastor's flight. So, the Pastor said, "**I'd love to**

talk w/ you, but my flight's leaving.” But, the desperate Man pleaded, “**Can't you tell me quickly how to be saved?**” As the Pastor stepped on board, he said, “**Go home and read Is 53:6. Just go in at the first 'all' and out at the last 'all.'**” This strange advice **puzzled** the anxious man. But, he did as he was told.

Now, as he repeatedly read the verse, the light **finally dawned**. And, he shouted for joy, “**I see it! 'All of us like sheep have gone astray.' I can go in there, b/c I'm certainly a lost sheep. And, 'the LORD has caused the iniquity of us all to fall on Him.' If God has put the sins of us all on Jesus, then I can go out there a saved man!**”

E. APPL: God designs Salvation in Jesus Christ for Jew and Pagan, rich and poor, famous and infamous. So, God rejects **no one** who comes to Him in Faith.

Jesus **accepts** every repentant sinner, b/c Jesus has Mercy on the Imperfect.

(TRN) In (9-10), Jesus prepares for an **escape**.

Mark 3:9–10 (NASB95) ⁹ *And [Jesus] told His disciples that a boat should stand ready for Him because of the crowd, so that they would not [crush] Him;* ¹⁰ *for He had healed many, with the result that all those who had afflictions pressed around Him in order to touch Him.*

(9-10) The situation gets so tense that Jesus tells His Followers to get a boat ready, b/c they may have get out of **Dodge** to escape the frantic Mob.

A. Mark is the **only** Gospel writer who says this, so Simon must've told him about this frightening, life-threatening detail, b/c it left an indelible impression on him.

1. The Mob is getting so wound up that they might trample Jesus and His Followers at any moment, so Jesus prepares to protect His Followers.

B. **Here's why the Mob is going nuts:** Jesus is **healing** many people suffering from terrible diseases.

1. The Greek word for “**affliction**” means “**to be beat w/ a whip or suffer a disease in unbearable pain.**”

2. So, **100s** maybe **1,000s** of desperate people want Jesus to touch them and end their agony. They believe the superstitious idea that just touching Him can cure them.

3. They don't understand that Jesus' healing ministry is about trusting in Him as **the Christ** and **the Savior** of the World. It's **not** about magic rituals.

C. Now, since many of these desperate people see touching Jesus as matter of life and death, they're growing frantic and hysterical, b/c they can't get to Him.

1. So, there's pushing and shoving. And, some people are falling, and others are walking on them.

2. Some are shouting angrily to force others out of their way. And, some are shouting pitifully to get Jesus to look their way.

3. Some babies are crying, b/c of the anger and screaming. And, some adults are crying, b/c they're too weak to push through the Mob.

4. Add to this, the sound of the sheep, the goats, the donkeys, the horses, and the screaming, and the manhandling, and—**the fainting.**

D. But, despite the panicking, yelling, crying, bah-bah-ing, braying, and whinnying, there's also a symphony of jolly, joyful, jubilant singing and praising!

1. Jesus has healed some, so dead milky eyes, stone-deaf ears, missing arms and legs, rotting leprous faces, and shriveled bent bodies are normal again!

2. What's more, Jesus has healed others, and insane, violent, degraded, eerie zombies are no longer the slaves of demons. Now, they're sane, calm, clean, normal men, women, and children again!

E. And soon, the foot traffic of the writhing, bumping, deafening Mob starts to make dust clouds billow everywhere. And, they look like clouds of incense rising to God.

1. But in your mind, they could also stand for the prayers of frantic Jews and Pagans begging for Mercy and the prayers of grateful Jews and Pagans weeping for Joy.

Here's why—

2. As weak, superstitious, frantic, hysterical, and separated from God's promises as some of these Jews and Pagans are, God has seen their imperfect Faith in Jesus and He's—**touched them.**

F. ILL: A Christian **Father** cherished a photograph of his dead **Son**. But, it was so **old and blurred** that he couldn't see the boy's features **clearly**. B/c it was the only photo he had of his Son, the Father took it to an **Artist** for **restoration**.

Three weeks later, the Father received a sharply detailed and neatly framed picture. Its clarity **amazed** him! It was as if his Son were smiling at him again. The old photo had **hidden** his Son's clear image, but the Artist's **touch** revealed itⁱⁱⁱ.

G. APPL: Sin and ignorance blur God's image in us. But, God's **touch** can restore His image in us through Faith in Jesus Christ, even imperfect Faith.

God's touch restores us, b/c Jesus has Mercy on the Imperfect.

(TRN) In (11-12), demons try to **spite** Jesus.

Mark 3:11–12 (NASB95) ¹¹ *Whenever the unclean spirits saw Him, they would fall down before Him and shout, “You are the Son of God!”* ¹² *And He earnestly warned them not to tell who He was.*

(11-12) As Jesus frees demonized men, women, and children, the ousted unclean spirits scream in terror and spite.

A. Then, they **grovel** at Jesus’ feet. These unclean spirits know Who’s dealing w/ them. And, seeing Jesus’ **Divine Nobility**, they’ve no other choice but to honor Him.

1. It’s the exact **opposite** of what you’d think, b/c most of the Jews and Pagans don’t honor Jesus’ Divine Nobility—**no matter what He does**.

2. But, as such, the demon’s reaction to Jesus’ Divine Nobility fulfills prophecy:

Isaiah 45:22–25 (NASB95) ²² *“Turn to Me and be saved, all the ends of the earth; For I am God, and there is no other.* ²³ *“I have sworn by Myself, the word has gone forth from My mouth in righteousness and will not turn back, that to Me every knee will bow, every tongue will swear [allegiance].* ²⁴ *“They will say of Me, ‘Only in the LORD are righteousness and strength.’ Men will come to Him, and all who were angry at Him will be put to shame.* ²⁵ *“In the LORD all the offspring of Israel Will be justified and will glory.”*

3. IOW, their reaction is only a sample of what will happen on the Day of Judgment when every angel, human, and d-mn will honor Jesus, whether they like it or not.

B. But, the demons spitefully identify Jesus as God’s Divine Son, b/c they’re trying to gum up the works by throwing God’s timing off.

1. God intends to gradually reveal Jesus’ Divine identity at key points in His ministry. But, this demonstration of God’s mercy in the Galilean wilderness isn’t 1 of them.

C. So, Jesus sternly orders the demons to dummy up, b/c he doesn’t take help from His enemies. Instead, Jesus obeys His Father, b/c His plan is the best plan for His life.

1. What’s more God’s plan for Jesus’ life is the best plan for our lives, b/c He’s come to save us from our sins and the devil’s spite.

D. ILL: Many years ago, the **Prince of Wales** visited a city in **India**. And, his royal splendor **swept** everyone away. So much so, that his name was on everyone’s lips.

When the Prince’s visit ended, he started his journey back to **England** at a train station, and a large **Crowd** came to send him off. Soldiers, wealthy merchants, and even nobility all fixed their eyes on the Prince as he stood w/ royal bearing on the platform, waiting for the approaching train.

Then suddenly, the Prince saw a **little Boy** on the tracks. Realizing the danger, the Prince rushed **forward and scooped** the boy up. And, the Crowd **went wild** singing his praises! The Prince's selfless act **exalted** him in their eyes even more^{iv}!

E. APPL: On **Judgment Day**, every angel, man, and demon will see how Jesus Christ, the **Prince of Heaven** rushed forward to save us. Then, **every knee** shall bow, and every tongue shall confess that Jesus Christ is Lord—**whether they like it or not!**

Jesus rescues us from the devil's spite, b/c Jesus has Mercy on the Imperfect.

ⁱ Bob Olmstead, Reno, Nevada, 30 August 1992, <http://www.homileticonline.com>.

ⁱⁱ "Two Alls," INFOsearch Pro ver 4.3P.

ⁱⁱⁱ "The Image of his Son," Ibid.

^{iv} "He Stooped to Save," Ibid.

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