

## TAX COLLECTORS, A WITHERED HAND, SHRIVELED HEARTS

**Mark 2:14-28; 3:1-12**

- **Review**

***<sup>39</sup> And He went into their synagogues throughout all Galilee, preaching and casting out the demons. <sup>40</sup> And a leper \*came to Jesus, beseeching Him and falling on his knees before Him, and saying, "If You are willing, You can make me clean." <sup>41</sup> Moved with compassion, Jesus stretched out His hand and touched him, and \*said to him, "I am willing; be cleansed." <sup>42</sup> Immediately the leprosy left him and he was cleansed. Mark 1:39-42 NASB***

***<sup>9</sup> Which is easier, to say to the paralytic, 'Your sins are forgiven'; or to say, 'Get up, and pick up your pallet and walk'? <sup>10</sup> But so that you may know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins"—He \*said to the paralytic, <sup>11</sup> "I say to you, get up, pick up your pallet and go home." <sup>12</sup> And he got up and immediately picked up the pallet and went out in the sight of everyone, so that they were all amazed and were glorifying God, saying, "We have never seen anything like this." <sup>13</sup> And He went out again by the seashore; and all the people were coming to Him, and He was teaching them. Mark 2:9-13 NASB***

***"Alife dominated by divine love does not need to work out the comparative influence, or prospective success or failure, of a particular word or deed. Love says or does what is necessary and works out the consequences later."  
John Stott***

***<sup>14</sup> As He passed by, He saw Levi the son of Alphaeus sitting in the tax booth, and He said to him, "Follow Me!" And he got up and followed Him. <sup>15</sup> And it happened that He was reclining at the table in his house, and many tax collectors and sinners were dining with Jesus and His disciples; for there were many of them, and they were following Him. <sup>16</sup> When the scribes of the Pharisees saw that He was eating with the sinners and tax collectors, they said to His disciples, "Why is He eating and drinking with tax collectors and sinners?" <sup>17</sup> And hearing this, Jesus said to them, "It is not those who are healthy who need a physician, but those who are sick; I did not come to call the righteous, but sinners." <sup>18</sup> John's disciples and the Pharisees were fasting;***

***and they came and said to Him, "Why do John's disciples and the disciples of the Pharisees fast, but Your disciples do not fast?"<sup>19</sup> And Jesus said to them, "While the bridegroom is with them, the attendants of the bridegroom cannot fast, can they? So long as they have the bridegroom with them, they cannot fast.<sup>20</sup> But the days will come when the bridegroom is taken away from them, and then they will fast in that day.***

***<sup>21</sup> "No one sews a patch of unshrunk cloth on an old garment; otherwise the patch pulls away from it, the new from the old, and a worse tear results.<sup>22</sup> No one puts new wine into old wineskins; otherwise the wine will burst the skins, and the wine is lost and the skins as well; but one puts new wine into fresh wineskins."***

### **Question of the Sabbath**

***<sup>23</sup> And it happened that He was passing through the grainfields on the Sabbath, and His disciples began to make their way along while picking the heads of grain.<sup>24</sup> The Pharisees were saying to Him, "Look, why are they doing what is not lawful on the Sabbath?"<sup>25</sup> And He \*said to them, "Have you never read what David did when he was in need and he and his companions became hungry;<sup>26</sup> how he entered the house of God in the time of Abiathar the high priest, and ate the consecrated bread, which is not lawful for anyone to eat except the priests, and he also gave it to those who were with him?"<sup>27</sup> Jesus said to them, "The Sabbath was made for man, and not man for the Sabbath.<sup>28</sup> So the Son of Man is Lord even of the Sabbath." Mark 2:14-28 NASB***

- **Jesus calls Levi (Matthew)**
  - **Tax collectors are well known but not well liked.**
  - **Matthew was likely sitting in the tax booth that was on the informational road that went from Damascus through Capernaum to the Mediterranean coast and to Egypt.**
  - **Tax collectors charged the people with a government demanded fee and then added to it to gain a profit for themselves.**
  - **Jesus tells Matthew to follow Him and he gets up and follows Him.**

- ***Jesus and His crew end up at a dinner meeting at Matthew's house, the guestlist included tax collectors, disciples, and sinners...***
  - ***Sinners – irreligious Jews who refused to keep the laws of Moses, keep the sabbath or attend the synagogue.***
    - ***Many of them were following Jesus. (v15)***
    - ***The scribes and Pharisees were irked that Jesus and His disciples were dining with these 'rascals' and they openly complained about it.***
  - ***The Pharisees took offense at the people Jesus associated with, those they called sinners. I think Jesus took offense at the Pharisees presuming that they were the righteous.***
- ***Jesus confronted the horrible disease of leprosy, and the crippling condition of the paralyzed man, and now He deals with the horrible social sin of underhanded greed, profiting from the oppression of His own kind.***
- ***Jesus came to make us whole, spirit, soul and body.***
- ***The next complaint (v18-22) is a question about why John the Baptist's followers and the Pharisees fasted...why didn't Jesus and His disciples fast?***
  - ***Jesus explains that you don't fast when the bridegroom is present...not until He goes away.***
  - ***What Jesus is saying is brand new...the Gospel, the Good News is here and it is based on a better covenant with better promises.***

***But as it now is, He [Christ] has acquired a [priestly] ministry which is as much superior and more excellent [than the old] as the covenant (the agreement) of which He is the Mediator (the Arbiter, Agent) is superior and more excellent, [because] it is enacted and rests upon more important (sublimier, higher, and nobler) promises. Hebrews 8:6 NASB***

- ***The new cloth and old garment; the new wine and the old wineskin.***
  - ***Goat skins were used to hold wine and when there was new wine it needed to be poured into a fresh wineskin because it would expand as it fermented, and that expansion would split an old wine skin if you used it.***

- *The old wineskin (law driven religion) could not contain the kingdom that has no end to the increase of His government or His peace.*
- *The law came through Moses...grace and truth through Jesus Christ.*
- *The next issue involves the Sabbath.*
  - *The end results is that "The Son of Man is Lord even of the Sabbath. (v23-27)*
  - *There is a big gap being shown between the Pharisees and their expectation of the Messiah and the 'actuality' of who Jesus is.*

***"Someone from eternity entered our space and time. The Son of Man who can forgive sins on earth is also the Lord of the Sabbath in this age." Ronald J Kernaghan***

- *Jesus had declared that the Sabbath was made for man, and He criticized the Pharisees for holding the Sabbath laws and traditions so rigidly that people had become servants of the Sabbath.*

***<sup>13</sup> If you turn away your foot from [traveling unduly on] the Sabbath, from doing your own pleasure on My holy day, and call the Sabbath a [spiritual] delight, the holy day of the Lord honorable, and honor Him and it, not going your own way or seeking or finding your own pleasure or speaking with your own [idle] words, <sup>14</sup> Then will you delight yourself in the Lord, and I will make you to ride on the high places of the earth, and I will feed you with the heritage [promised for you] of Jacob your father; for the mouth of the Lord has spoken it. Isaiah 58:13-14 AMPC***

- *The Pharisees were looking for everyone always to keep the Sabbath which would bring the coming of the kingdom in their way of thinking...*

***3 He entered again into a synagogue; and a man was there whose hand was withered. <sup>2</sup> They were watching Him to see if He would heal him on the Sabbath, so that they might accuse Him. <sup>3</sup> He said to the man with the withered hand, "Get up and come forward!" <sup>4</sup> And He said to them, "Is it lawful to do good or to do harm on the Sabbath, to save a life or to kill?" But***

**they kept silent. <sup>5</sup> After looking around at them with anger, grieved at their hardness of heart, He said to the man, "Stretch out your hand." And he stretched it out, and his hand was restored. <sup>6</sup> The Pharisees went out and immediately began conspiring with the Herodians against Him, as to how they might destroy Him. <sup>7</sup> Jesus withdrew to the sea with His disciples; and a great multitude from Galilee followed; and also from Judea, <sup>8</sup> 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. <sup>9</sup> And He told His disciples that a boat should stand ready for Him because of the crowd, so that they would not crowd Him; <sup>10</sup> for He had healed many, with the result that all those who had afflictions pressed around Him in order to touch Him. <sup>11</sup> Whenever the unclean spirits saw Him, they would fall down before Him and shout, "You are the Son of God!" <sup>12</sup> And He earnestly warned them not to tell who He was. Mark 3:1-12 NASB**

- **Back to the synagogue where we see a new incident about healing on the Sabbath.**
  - **Perhaps this is the first gospel invitation... "Get up and come forward." (v3)**
  - **Jesus asks some tough questions. (v4)**
  - **The man's hand is healed and restored instantly.**
  - **The man is made well and immediately the Pharisees set out to plan the death of Jesus...this was, of course, a total violation of the Sabbath.**
  - **The Pharisees had the same problem that the man with the bad hand had.**
    - **His hand was dry, shriveled and hard, just like the hearts of the Pharisees.**
    - **Jesus could heal their hearts, just as He healed that man's hand...if they could just see Him for who He is.**
    - **Jesus withdrew to the sea and a great multitude follows Him. So many people came that the disciples had to get a boat so they could deal with the crowd.**
    - **This is His first 'preaching' service in the region that was not in a synagogue...**

- ***The people tried to 'touch Him' to get healed and many were healed and delivered and totally set free.***

***You know of Jesus of Nazareth, how God anointed Him with the Holy Spirit and with power, and how He went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with Him. Acts 10:38 NASB***

***How God anointed and consecrated Jesus of Nazareth with the [Holy] Spirit and with strength and ability and power; how He went about doing good and, in particular, curing all who were harassed and oppressed by [the power of] the devil, for God was with Him. Acts 10:38 AMPC***