

Mark: Chapter 3

Disciple/apostle = learn/share. FOCUS: How to heal

In this chapter you will learn more about healing through the Christ-power, and overcoming resistance to that work.



In this chapter you will find:

- Healing the man with withered hand
- Multitude healing
- The twelve ordained
- Binding the Strong Man

Let's begin with some comments from James Stalker, MA, DD¹. We see how the opposition to Jesus is increasing as he says and does things at variance with the Pharisees and other religious leaders of that time. Stalker points out that Jesus “is thinking only of the message he has to deliver. Jesus was ever looking the spiritual and eternal realities in the face; ... He was borne along on the torrent of his mission, and what might happen to himself could not make him stop to question or quail. He discovered his boldness chiefly in attacking the abuses and ideals of the time. It would be a complete mistake to think of him as all mildness and meekness. There is scarcely any element more conspicuous in his words than a strain of fierce indignation. ... There never was in the history of speech a polemic so scathing, so annihilating, as his against the figures to which the reverence of the multitude had been paid before his withering words fell on them — the scribe, the Pharisee, the priest, and the Levite” (70-71).



Following the Master and observing what happens for the purpose of training, of learning, of realization and instruction, it is obvious that resistance to him and his teachings continually increases. Jesus talks to his disciples about the hate that was directed at him.

¹ Stalker, James. *Life of Christ*.

It is the worldly-minded, personal-minded, old-theologically-minded, close-minded, highly opinionated and self-righteous ones that hate/hated him. The Pharisees, steeped in dogma and self-righteousness, loathed and feared Jesus' denunciations of them, their teachings, and their enforcement of burdensome traditions. They were losing favor with the people, while Jesus,



teaching higher ideas and healing their sick, was gaining. Envy and fear were behind their hatred. We must watch for these elements of thought that would encroach upon us today as his disciples doing the same works that he did.

Envy is often hidden. Be not deceived; be watchful.

In *Psalms* it is written, “They that hate me without a cause are more than the hairs of mine head: they that would destroy me, being mine enemies wrongfully, are mighty:” (69:4). Jesus referred to this *Psalm* in reference to himself, “But this cometh to pass, that the word might be fulfilled that is written in their law, They hated me without a cause” (*John* 15:25).

In the beginning of *our chapter 3 day-with-Jesus*, we learn, as his disciples, how to heal what appears absolutely hopeless (a withered hand) in the midst of opposing, hate-directed, indignant thought!

We move from the Pharisee's accusations that build in chapter 2, to the beginning of the third chapter where there is a man with a withered hand in the synagogue. They watch Jesus, hoping to accuse him of breaking the Sabbath.



Mark 3:1-7 “And he entered again into the synagogue; and there was a man there which had a withered hand. And they watched him, whether he would heal him on the sabbath day; that they might accuse him. And he saith unto the man which had the withered hand, Stand forth. And he saith unto them, Is it lawful to do good on the sabbath days, or to do evil? to save life, or to kill? But they held their peace.

And when he had looked round about on them with anger, being grieved for the hardness of their hearts, he saith unto the man, Stretch forth thine hand. And he stretched *it* out: and his hand was restored whole as the other. And the Pharisees went forth, and straightway took counsel with the Herodians against him, how they might destroy him. But Jesus withdrew himself with his disciples to the sea:”

Imagine yourself a disciple who has accompanied Jesus to the synagogue. You know that Jesus realizes his enemies are watching and waiting to attack. Yet he is dauntless, fearless. Jesus sees the man with the withered hand and his heart is moved with compassion. Does anyone else share his tender pity for the sufferer, and yearn to relieve him — and so glorify God?

The man does not approach Jesus or ask for healing — most likely because it was forbidden on the Sabbath (*thou shalt not do any work*). Probably everyone had been warned about Jesus as to breaking Sabbath-laws by healing. For whatever reason, the man did not come forward or

ask for this healing. Instead, Jesus called the man, saying, “Stand forth.” The man, I am sure, must have stepped forward without hesitancy. Lamsa’s² interpretation from the Aramaic is, “Stand up in the center.” It’s *front and center*, fearless.

Jesus consistently teaches by healing, uses few words, and nevertheless creates lessons of incredible impact, not only for that moment or time-period, but for all time to come.



Jesus’ lessons of healing cut across time, cultures, languages, differences. They are actions that speak of Love and the truth of our being as God’s image and likeness. These lessons stay before you. They illustrate the power of Christ as the solution to every problem — sin, disease, death.

Healing-lessons are a focal point in your activity of ministering as a present-day disciple. The healings that follow your presence as you reflect the Light of truth, also teach — and better than any words or logical argument could ever hope for.

In the case of the man with the withered hand, Jesus addresses the surrounding mental atmosphere before he speaks the healing words of truth and love. Similarly, in chapter 2, he addressed the mental state of the patient by forgiveness, before he healed the paralytic.

Lamsa, George. *Holy Bible from the Ancient Eastern Text*. George M. Lamsa’s translation from the Aramaic of the Peshitta. ISBN 0-06-064923-2

The surrounding mental atmosphere must be addressed. In this case, it was composed of indifference, condemnation, and misdirected personal judgment by the religious leaders. When Jesus asks, (with the man front and center), if it was “lawful to do good on the sabbath days” (heal this man’s hand) not a word was spoken. Jesus then “looked round about on them with anger ... grieved for the hardness of their hearts” (v. 5).

Turning to the man with tenderness and divine Love, Jesus says, “Stretch forth thine hand” (5). You have now “watched” the Master clear the way for healing, and you have “watched” him change instantly from righteous indignation to gentle compassion. It is written that he “loved righteousness and hated iniquity” — this is seen in our Master’s life in every instance!



STRETCH FORTH THINE HAND

Jesus speaks six words to the afflicted one, First, “Stand forth,” and finally, “Stretch forth thy hand.” Two imperative statements. It is not by talking or pleading with God that healing occurs. God creates with a word, “Let there be...” and His Son (“image and likeness”) heals with a word, “Stretch forth thine hand.”

In *I John* we read, “Now are we the sons of God” (and daughters). We are to heal in the name of Jesus, as he commanded.

Without Christ, without the Holy Spirit, without Love, we can “do nothing,” but if we “abide in him” then all things are possible (*John* 15:4). “Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, except it **abide** in the vine; no more can ye, except ye abide in me” (*John* 15:4).



ABIDE IN ME

RESPOND TO CHRIST

Jesus calls on the patient to act! The one to be healed must do as the Christ commands. One desiring healing through the Spirit must be obedient and do what the Christ, the angel messages, the divine Intelligence, communicates and directs. If the man had refused to step forward to the front, if he had not stretched out his hand but rather kept it hidden, would there have been healing? Whatever you feel bidden to do by Spirit, follow through immediately.

PURPOSE IN HEALING

The intent or purpose of healing is to glorify God and show forth man in the “likeness” of the perfect One. “Forth” means to reach a certain point in space, to physically move, and it means “purpose” figuratively. Stand forth / stretch forth / be healed. These commands rest upon us.

A beautiful analyses of this healing, with practical ideas for application today, comes from *Unity of Good*³. Nineteenth-century Christian healer, Mary Baker Eddy, explains, “[Jesus] demanded a change of consciousness and evidence, and effected this change through the higher laws of God. The palsied hand moved, despite the boastful sense of physical law and order. Jesus stooped not to human consciousness, nor to the evidence of the senses. He heeded not the taunt, “That withered hand looks very real and feels very real;” but he cut off this vain boasting and destroyed human pride by taking away the material evidence” (11). Whatever bad, threatening, long-standing “looks very real... feels very real” you or someone that you know may be facing, spiritual Law is supreme and present, and you can call upon it in prayer with absolute faith, to restore normal healthy conditions. Turn from the material picture to the spiritual image where man reflects the perfect substance, the wholeness of Spirit, and is complete and beautiful.

³ Eddy, Mary Baker. *Unity of Good*.



Let the truth, the reality, manifest — in Jesus' name — now. "And if you ask anything in my name, I will do it" (*John 14:14*).

Abide in him — the Christ will "do it." Be not afraid, no doubt.

Gratitude - it is done - "I will do it."

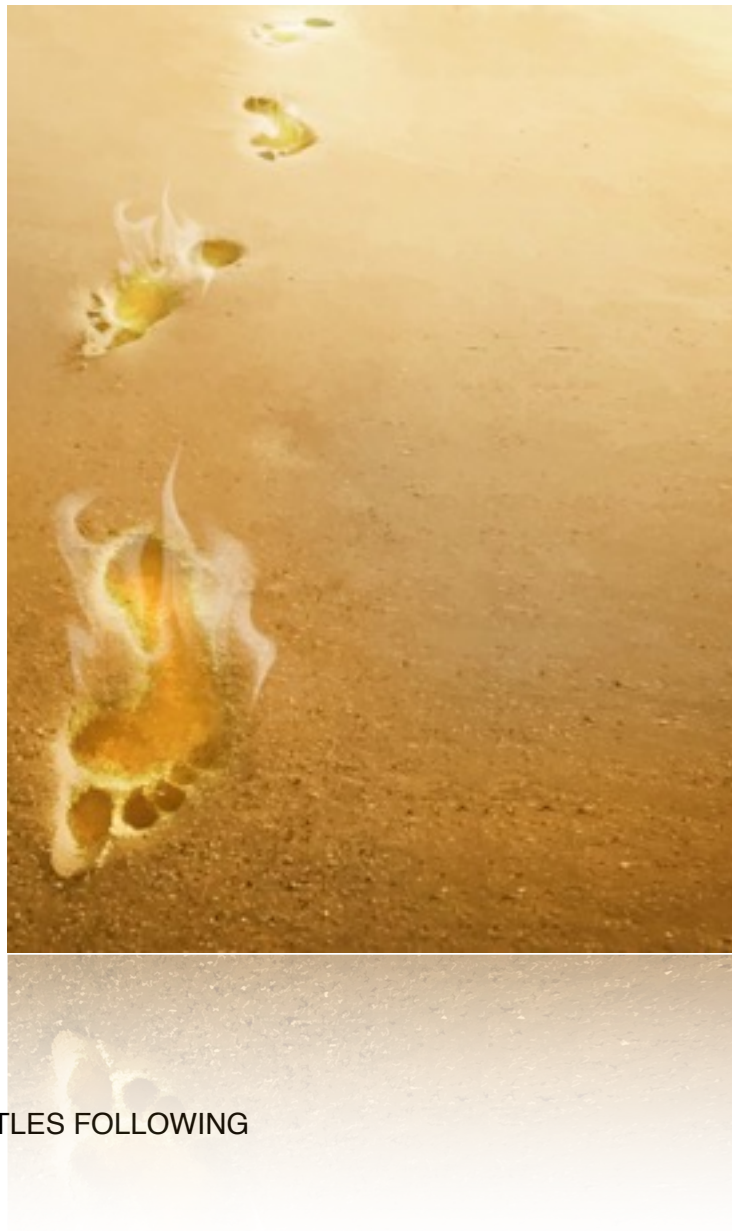
Gratitude opens the way for healing. Grateful BEFORE you see the change desired for good, and it will manifest. Pray to know that all good is present now, available, and at hand — for God is Good and fills all space, there is none else.

AUTHORITY AND REBUKE MIXED WITH THE MOST TENDER LOVE

Jesus' authentic living of Christianity demonstrates the practical nature of Love — a completely different presentation than the practice of the religious leaders of his time. No wonder multitudes followed him. Stalker ⁴writes, "In spite of his tone of authority and his fearless and scathing attacks on the times, there was diffused over all he said a glow of grace and love. Here especially his character spoke. How could he who was the incarnation of love help letting the glow and warmth of the heavenly fire that dwelt in him spread over his words? The scribes of the time were hard, proud, and loveless" (71). They felt that the majority of people were cursed

⁴ Stalker, James. *Life of Christ*

because they did not know *the law*. “But to Jesus every soul was infinitely precious” (71). Seeing the real man in God’s likeness, “he spoke to his hearers of every grade with the same respect. Surely it was the divine love itself, uttering itself from the innermost recess of the divine being” (71).



DISCIPLES/APOSTLES FOLLOWING

“For even hereunto were ye called: because Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example, that ye should follow his steps:” (*1 Peter 2:21*).

Then, following his steps as good disciples, we in turn become models to all, as excellent apostles, “being ensamples to the flock” (*1 Peter 5:3*).

OBSERVATION REQUISITE

By observing the great masters in art, literature, sports, and so forth, we learn how to be like them — what to imitate, what to do. So we observe the great Master, Christ Jesus, in his practice of Christianity. Our practice of Christian principles as taught by Jesus is spiritually individualized in the ministry and life of each one of us. Watch Jesus as described in each chapter, and takes notes. Do what you can do be like him. Follow his example. Look at the mental states, the commonalities of situations, and you will find a parallel experience to guide you in every situation or in every decision.

ATTRACTING STUDENTS OR RECEPTIVE LISTENERS

How do you attract a multitude of seekers/listeners? Jesus did not need “marketing.” In fact, he needed to find ways to avoid continuous crowds in order to acquire quiet prayer time.

Mark 3:7-12 ... “and a great multitude from Galilee followed him, and from Judaea, And from Jerusalem, and from Idumaea, and from beyond Jordan; and they about Tyre and Sidon, a great multitude, when they had heard what great things he did, came unto him. And he spake to his disciples, that a small ship should wait on him because of the multitude, lest they should throng him. For he had healed many; insomuch that they pressed upon him for to touch him, as many as had plagues. And unclean spirits, when they saw him, fell down before him, and cried, saying, Thou art the Son of God. And he straitly charged them that they should not make him known.”



(Sea of Galilee)

It is healing that attracts. When one's words are the pure Word from a pure heart with spiritual understanding, and there is a receptive patient who has faith and willingness to be obedient to the Christ, there is healing. Jesus said that his disciples (including them that believe through their word) would heal the sick. He commanded them, and us (his present day disciples), to heal the sick. Mark records the Master's promise, "And these signs shall follow them that believe; In my name shall they cast out devils; they shall speak with new tongues; They shall take up serpents; and if they drink any deadly thing, it shall not hurt them; they shall lay hands on the sick, and they shall recover" (16:17-18).

At the seaside with the Master, there are so many people that the disciples must provide a small boat for Jesus to give him space to continue speaking. They press on him to be healed. He requires a safe place from which to speak so that he is not thronged. This is the disciple's job. They get a small ship and push off into the sea. The people can hear him but not crush or

smother him. Throng — to press hard upon; compress; press as in crushing grapes; straitened or contracted (*Thayer*)⁵. Be prepared for the thronging...work in your quiet time.



PRAYER FOR ONENESS

It is the Christ, the Light of the Love of God within Jesus that attracts and heals. Jesus prays that his followers come into oneness with him and the Father, into oneness with the Light of Life. He prays not for his immediate disciples alone, “but for them also which shall believe on me through their word; That they all may be one; as thou, Father, art in me, and I in thee, that they also may be one in us:” (*John 17:20-21*). Then Jesus’ prayer is resting upon you. It is a direct prayer. Feel the power of that Christ prayer for you, and meditate upon your oneness with him and with the Father, the Light of Love.

It is this Light of Love within you, and you within that infinite Light, that draws and attracts those ready to be taught and healed.

⁵ *Thayer’s Greek-English Lexicon*

Mark 3:13 - 19 “And he goeth up into a mountain, and calleth unto him whom he would: and they came unto him. And he ordained twelve, that they should be with him, and that he might send them forth to preach, And to have power to heal sicknesses, and to cast out devils: And Simon he surnamed Peter; And James the son of Zebedee, and John the brother of James; and he surnamed them Boanerges, which is, The sons of thunder: And Andrew, and Philip, and Bartholomew, and Matthew, and Thomas, and James the son of Alphaeus, and Thaddaeus, and Simon the Canaanite, And Judas Iscariot, which also betrayed him: and they went into an house.”



ADD YOUR NAME TO THE LIST. You may think — I can’t do that! But in reality, you *need* to do it. I would not dare NOT to add my name to the list of chosen disciples. It’s really giving your consent. It’s you getting up immediately to follow him. It’s your consent to be active.

You are called. Jesus said, *John* 15:16, “Ye have not chosen me, but I have chosen you, and ordained you, that ye should go and bring forth fruit, and that your fruit should remain: that whatsoever ye shall ask of the Father in my name, he may give it you.”



TWELVE

“He ordained twelve” — 12 is the number used in Hebrew literature to indicate holy completeness and perfection of government. You are needed. God would not be complete without you.

Ordain — Properly, to set; to establish in a particular office or order; hence, to invest with a ministerial function or sacerdotal power; to introduce and establish or settle in the pastoral office with the customary forms and solemnities. 2) To appoint; to decree.

“He ordained twelve, that they should be with him...” Let us consent to be “with” him each day... mentally focused, spiritually watching and alert, and do what he commanded his disciples to do. Find ways to apostle — to share what you are learning — AS YOU LEARN IT. Pray for opportunities. It will come easily. Give your consent to active discipleship/apostleship.

The Master sends us “forth to preach, and to have power to heal sicknesses, and to cast out devils.” This means that we CAN. There is NO DOUBT. Jesus states that whatever we ask in his Father’s name he will do it. Let no doubt creep in — he has said it — and the prayer is to you.

IDENTIFICATION OF YOURSELF TO YOURSELF

I am chosen and ordained. WHAT DOES THIS MEAN? I will watch for opportunities to preach and heal as Jesus commanded. I do this with gratitude, confidence in Christ and the Holy Spirit of Love, and with humility and grace. I do it with heartfelt authentic compassion.

Find small ways to express this each day (the big ones will also just land in your lap, and you will be able to successfully meet things through Christ).

OBSTACLES

The first thing may be resistance or obstruction from “friends” and/or “family.”

Mark 3:20-21 “And the multitude cometh together again, so that they could not so much as eat bread. And when his friends heard of it, they went out to lay hold on him: for they said, He is beside himself.” In chapter 6, Mark points out the Master’s explanation, “But Jesus said unto them, A prophet is not without honour, but in his own country, and among his own kin, and in his own house.” When he went to Nazareth, the people could only see “the carpenter’s son,” and he did “not many mighty acts there because of their unbelief” (*Mark 13:58*).

Notice — not even time to “so much as eat bread.” Are you okay with that? Seek out the alone time, nourish yourself in every way — Jesus got up early to do it. Why so thronged? The immediate and wonderful healings. He said that you will do this. He has given us power to preach effectively and persuasively, but the best preaching is in seeing and feeling and experiencing — the healing works.

THE STRONG MAN

Mark 3:22-27 “And the scribes which came down from Jerusalem said, He hath Beelzebub, and by the prince of the devils casteth he out devils. And he called them unto him, and said unto them in parables, How can Satan cast out Satan? And if a kingdom be divided against itself, that kingdom cannot stand. And if a house be divided against itself, that house cannot stand. And if Satan rise up against himself, and be divided, he cannot stand, but hath an end. No man can enter into a strong man’s house, and spoil his goods, except he will first bind the strong man; and then he will spoil his house.”

When something is “divided against itself” it is weakened and will fail. Those jealous and afraid of Jesus accuse him of working his dealings through “Beelzebub” — today, that would mean that your pure Christly healing work would be charged with being merely coincidental, spontaneous remission, mis-diagnosis, hypnotism, or some kind of personal mind-control.



Jesus explains about “the strong man.” This is that *negative* inner voice. It is what speaks to you of failure, doubt, fear, inability, addictions, and all the “what ifs” that attempt bind, delay, obstruct, and restrict you. The Christ-presence of Love “binds” the “strong man,” and thought is free.

Mark 3:28-30 “Verily I say unto you, All sins shall be forgiven unto the sons of men, and blasphemies wherewith soever they shall blaspheme: But he that shall blaspheme against the Holy Ghost hath never forgiveness, but is in danger of eternal damnation: Because they said, He hath an unclean spirit.”

It is a huge “sin” that they accused him of having “an unclean spirit.” The Spirit in him was God. You cannot get more pure. If our Master was accused, we should not be surprised as present day disciples, if we are accused as well. The Pharisees, scribes, and Sadducees all accused him of erroneous thinking, believing, and practice. Obviously they were wrong and he was not only right, but perfect, and in fullness of understanding, for the Father continually dwelt in him. The Father also dwells in us — we must stay mindful of this. Jesus said that it was the Father who spoke in him and who did the works. Remember this — there is nothing personal in our words or works — the omnipresent Spirit of Love, the Christ-presence, works in us.

ONE FAMILY Mark 3:31-35 “There came then his brethren and his mother, and, standing without, sent unto him, calling him. And the multitude sat about him, and they said unto him, Behold, thy mother and thy brethren without seek for thee. And he answered them, saying, Who is my mother, or my brethren? And he looked round about on them which sat about him, and said, Behold my mother and my brethren! For whosoever shall do the will of God, the same is my brother, and my sister, and mother.”



If we think in Spirit, if we think of the eternal spiritual reality that emanates from the one Father-Mother God, are we not all brothers and sisters — all one family in reality?

Jesus did not go out to Mary and his brethren, but stayed with the disciples — he called them his family. “They that do the will of God” are his family — then let us do the will of God!

Family transcends blood lines or ties, cultures or time periods. All that “do the will of God” are His family. You are my family. I am yours. We are in Jesus’ family doing the will of our Father — preach the Gospel and heal the sick.

Assignment for this week:

Sometime today, or this week, when you have contact with another person at the market, behind a register, at a school, in the street, wherever — stop and silently affirm that individual to be your true brother or sister. Just consider it for a few moments. Does anything change? Before this, you would probably think nothing at all, or identify that individual as a “stranger” and leave it at that. But now, for a few moments, consider how things change when you think, This is my brother; This is my sister.

You may wish to record your experience in your Journal. Please download and use the beautiful Journal designed for this course and provided at the top of the curriculum page near the syllabus.



Journal Questions:

What have I learned in chapter three as a *disciple*?

How will I express and share this as an *apostle*?

How is the Master training me *today* through his words, actions, and healing work as recorded in the third chapter of *Mark*?

What have I learned about healing?

Is my thought of family broadening and becoming more inclusive? What one thing could I do to act on an expanded sense of family?

Write anything (big or small) that you have learned or experienced about the Christ-healing.

Write your insights and ideas.

Write what you might do, or what you have done, and the results.

Evaluate your ministry. What are the strong points, the weaker points, and how can you strengthen these?

Be grateful — Love is always encompassing you, and you're safe.

Cross References

Luke 6:6-10

Luke 14:3

Matthew 23:13

John 4:50

Romans 4:19-25

Psalm 109:4, 5

Revelation 21:14

Ephesians 2:20

Psalm 35:10

Hebrew 2:14

Ephesians 4:30

Isaiah 5:20

I corinthians 12:3

I Peter 4:4, 5

Psalm 16:2, 3

Isaiah 6:9, 10

Proverbs 28:14

I Timothy 6:9, 10

Jeremiah 4:3, 4

Hosea 10:12

I Thessalonians 2:13