

Controversy #5: Jesus Does the Impossible  
Mark 3:1-6

**I. Why spend copious amounts of time and effort proving Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God?**

**A. Potential reasons**

1. Evangelism
2. Apologetics
3. Faith

**B. The practical application of faith in life**

1. **Hebrews 11:1 (ESV) *Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen.***
  - a. Assurance of hope
  - b. Conviction concerning promises
2. Hebrews 11: A picture of faith in action
  - a. Faithful
  - b. **Hebrews 11:13 (ESV) *These all died in faith, not having received the things promised, but having seen them and greeted them from afar, and having acknowledged that they were strangers and exiles on the earth.***
  - c. **Hebrews 11:39-40 (ESV) <sup>39</sup> *And all these, though commended through their faith, did not receive what was promised, <sup>40</sup> since God had provided something better for us, that apart from us they should not be made perfect.***
    - (1) They endured faithfully and courageously and powerfully in the adverse and hostile circumstances of their lives through faith in God and the promises He made
    - (2) God has provided something even better than promises as the basis for our faith
      - (a) God has provided His Son, Jesus the Christ, as the living fulfilment of every promise
      - (b) Faith is no longer built on an unseen promise but a seen and known and experienced Savior, Jesus Christ, God come in the flesh!
3. Why spend copious amounts of time and effort proving Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God?
  - a. **So that when the season comes in life when the challenges threaten to overwhelm us, we will rise in faith, full of assurance of hope and conviction concerning promises and live boldly for the praise of His glory.**
  - b. Life challenges can evoke doubt, fear, anxiety, consternation and confusion
    - (1) Faith plants us firmly in the reality of Christ
    - (2) the knowledge and conviction of who Jesus truly is, reinforces and deepens our faith.

- c. Why spend copious amounts of time and effort building faith by proving, repeatedly, that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God?
  - (1) **Because at some point in life, you're really going to need it in a way you have not yet experienced.**
  - (2) For example, what will you do when faced with an impossible situation?

## II. Controversy #5: Jesus Does the Impossible

### A. The story in Mark 3

1. It is probably the same day that Jesus, his disciples, and the Pharisees following them were walking through the grainfields.
2. Jesus arrives, as is His custom, in the synagogue.
  - a. He is gathered with God's people to worship and to learn, to practice the corporate component of covenant faith
  - b. He is not there to argue or fight or disrupt.
  - c. He is there to join in the journey and lead the people of God to the throne of God for the glory of God.
3. There is a man in the synagogue with a withered hand.
  - a. Don't know whether he is a plant or not
  - b. We do know that Jesus' behavior toward people and toward the Sabbath created a suspicion in the Pharisees that He would keep doing what He has already been doing.
4. Jesus takes over the scene.
  - a. Jesus is never the victim!
    - (1) He calls the man forward
    - (2) Poses a question to the Pharisees: **Mark 3:4a (ESV) And he said to them, "Is it lawful on the Sabbath to do good or to do harm, to save life or to kill?"**
  - b. **Mark 3:4b But they were silent.**
    - (1) If they say "good" they will be affirming Jesus' actions and authority
    - (2) If they say "harm" they will be denying the very nature of the Sabbath and the covenant.
    - (3) So, not willing to give up anything for Jesus to assert His authority in their lives,
      - (a) they refuse to engage
      - (b) they remain silent
      - (c) they resist Jesus.
5. Jesus' Three Responses Reveal the Heart of God
  - a. Three responses
    - (1) Jesus responds with anger:
      - (a) the response of God's glorious holiness to human sin
      - (b) **Romans 1:18 (ESV) For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who by their**

*unrighteousness suppress the truth.*

- (2) Jesus responds with grief:
  - (a) the response of God's glorious mercy to human destiny (death)
  - (b) **Ezekiel 33:11 (ESV)** <sup>11</sup> *Say to them, As I live, declares the Lord GOD, I have no pleasure in the death of the wicked, but that the wicked turn from his way and live; turn back, turn back from your evil ways, for why will you die, O house of Israel?*
- (3) Jesus responds with power:
  - (a) the response of God's glorious sovereignty to human need
  - (b) **Exodus 34:6-7 (ESV)** <sup>6</sup> *The LORD passed before him and proclaimed, "The LORD, the LORD, a God merciful and gracious, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love and faithfulness, <sup>7</sup> keeping steadfast love for thousands, forgiving iniquity and transgression and sin, but who will by no means clear the guilty, visiting the iniquity of the fathers on the children and the children's children, to the third and the fourth generation."*

b. Jesus Christ, the Son of God, reveals the heart of God for lost and sinful humanity as He does the impossible.

**B. What can your faith expect when faced with the impossible?**

- 1. Expect Jesus to be present
- 2. Expect Jesus to fulfil the promises of God
- 3. Expect Jesus to reveal the heart of God

**III. The Ultimate Choice**

**A. The choice the Pharisees made**

- 1. **Mark 3:6 (ESV)** *The Pharisees went out and immediately held counsel with the Herodians against him, how to destroy him.*
- 2. The religionists collaborated with the politicians to destroy Jesus

**B. What choice will you make today?**