



Women in the Word

Mark 3

January 26, 2012

1. What does the phrase “*connect at a heart level*” mean? Have you ever had a friendship where you felt instantly connected to another person? What created that deep connection?

2. The Bible speaks often of our heart. Read the following verses and write down your observations about our relationship with God “at a heart level.”

Jeremiah 29:13

Jeremiah 31:33

Ezekiel 11:18-21

Acts 13:22

Ephesians 5:19

Ephesians 6:6-7

3. Read Mark 3:1-6. In Mark 3:1, the text states very simply that a man with a shriveled hand was at the synagogue. What do we know about how the sick were viewed in the Jewish culture? Read John 9:1-4, Luke 1:6-7 and Luke 1:24-25 for further insight.
4. How are the Pharisees’ hearts described by Jesus in Mark 3:5? What was the focus of their hearts?
5. Read Exodus 31:12-17. What does the law state about observing the Sabbath? What purpose does God give for observing the Sabbath?

6. What is Jesus' response to the Pharisees' accusatory hearts in Mark 3:5? Why do you think Jesus chose that time to heal the man? Did the man ask to be healed?

7. The Pharisees were distracted from true worship at the synagogue because of the condition of their hearts. Whenever and wherever you spend time with God, what helps you worship Him at a deep heart level? What distracts you and causes your heart to become accusatory or selfish?

8. Read Mark 3:7-19. Why did Jesus withdraw? Read Matthew 12:14-21, a parallel passage, for more details.

9. As Jesus healed the crowds, evil spirits were present. What was the response of the demons when they saw Jesus?

Jesus silenced the evil spirits in Mark 3:12 so He could continue to preach good news of the Kingdom of God in God's perfect timing. What can you learn about Jesus from His interaction with the evil spirits?

10. People came from great distances to see Jesus, whom they had heard so much about. They came for healing, for curiosity and some for truth. Each one of us has a story about first coming to Jesus. What first brought you to Jesus?

11. In Mark 3:13-14, Jesus appoints 12 apostles. What other significant group was identified with the number 12? Read Genesis 49:28 for insight.

Jesus gave the 12 apostles what purposes according to Mark 3:14-15?

12. Read Mark 3:22-30. What is the accusation of the teachers of the law in Mark 3:22?

How is their accusation a perversion of the truth? Read Mark 1:1-13 and Luke 4:1 for insight.

13. Describe how Jesus defends Himself against the false accusations of the Pharisees in Mark 3:23-27.

14. Read Mark 3:20-21 and Mark 3:31-35. Why were Jesus' mother and brothers concerned? How does Jesus respond when He is told His family is looking for Him?

15. Jesus' words in Mark 3:34-35 illustrate the *new family* we have after receiving *new life* – or “*doing the will of God.*” What do 2 Corinthians 5:17 and Romans 6:4 tell us about the new life we can receive?

16. Do you have a personal prayer request to share with your small group?