

## Mark 3

### Thoughts from Deacon Adam

The scene opens in a synagogue, a place of scripture reading with a teaching to follow, kind of like a church building. The people would worship and offer sacrifices of animals or grain at the one temple, but they attended their own different synagogues to hear the word of the Lord and various interpretations provided by their local “rabbi,” or teacher. When Jesus began His ministry, He would often go first to a synagogue in the area to share His new “interpretation” of the scriptures being read on that day. The response was often quite extreme.



Much like our world today, “speaking truth to power” can be a risky business. It has been said that the truest test of a person’s character is what they do when they are given power. Leaders in all areas of life, whether political, religious, business, or otherwise, face the challenge of how to wield the power given them. Do we use power for people, or do we use people for power?

Jesus makes this point in dramatic fashion. He notices that the religious authorities are watching Him closely, hoping to find opportunities for accusation. Even as a young teacher, rather than blending in and deferring to the older respected ministers, Jesus draws a line in the sand and refuses to compromise. Why? That doesn’t seem very respectful. Wouldn’t it have been more “Christlike” for Jesus to just remain silent at the authorities’ constant criticism? Well, He goes silent when they finally put Him on trial, but until then He calls them out publicly, over and over, for their ongoing corruption, deception, and abuse of the people. “Love rejoices in the truth.” -1st Corinthians 13

Father, draw us closer to your heart, to your perspective on things, that we might come to desire how you desire, to fight where you fight, and to enjoy what you enjoy, through Christ our Lord.