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Randall L. Adkisson, Ph.D.

## Monday

Mark 3:1 He entered again into a synagogue; and a man was there whose hand was withered.

It's true, everyone in the sanctuary is not perfect. It should not come as a surprise but somehow it does. You feel overwhelmed and sometimes, to be honest, out of place. You come to church with pain, sin, heartache, even doubts *and you know everyone else is surely perfect*. You see perfect families, except for yours. You see perfect lives, except for yours. You see perfect relationships, except for yours. Then you wonder if God wants you in the sanctuary at all. Here's the truth. Just because others are on their best behavior, wearing smiles, and church clothes, doesn't mean that any of them are perfect. Church is absolutely the place for imperfect and hurting people. Don't just take my word for it, ask the man with the withered hand.

## Tuesday

Mark 3:21 When His own people heard of this, they went out to take custody of Him; for they were saying, "He has lost His senses."

They came to fetch Him, thinking Him insane, not because of His own actions, but because of the actions of others. People judge Jesus as unreal, unrealistic, even untruthful, not because of what He has said or done, but because of what you and I say and do. We may moan that they should look at Him and not at us, or listen to Him and not to us, but let's be real; the world judges a leader by those who 'claim' to follow him. Examine your actions and your words. Remember people are judging Jesus based upon your life. They are not looking for perfection. They are looking for evidence that He is real by seeing that you are really His.

## Wednesday

Mark 3:3 He said to the man with the withered hand, "Get up and come forward!"

One grand scheme of the devil is to convince you that you should elude corporate worship and the fellowship of God's people when your life is 'messed up'. Yet, who needs a hospital more, the healthy or the sick? Who needs the comfort of a friend more, the one celebrating or the one grieving? Jesus will say to you, "Get up and come forward. I am going to heal your brokenness." But remember this, He is going to say it in the place where He has promised to reside -- in the midst of His worshiping people. Come to the sanctuary especially when you are hurting, and there find healing. Come when you are sick and in despair. Come when you are broken and need mending. Come find Jesus in His sanctuary.

## Thursday

Mark 3:5 Grieved at their hardness of [their] heart.

Care must be exercised as you encounter others in the sanctuary. They may not dress as expected. They may not stand at the right time. They may not behave perfectly. They may cause a moment of distraction, yet this very one may be the person in whom God delights most because he/she has come seeking Jesus. Reach out to him as God is reaching, make her welcome, bring them in. Tender hearts are required. Gracious words are needed. Love, real love, patient love, God's love should be on display. Jesus said, "Is it lawful to do good or harm on the Sabbath?"

## Friday

Mark 3:14-15 And He appointed twelve, so that they would be with Him and that He could send them out to preach, and to have authority to cast out the demons.

Jesus healed; then He called disciples to take healing to others. He called the twelve then hundreds; then He called the church to follow in such service. You are called of God to carry words and acts of healing. The Holy Spirit is going before you and with you to bring ministry in the name of Jesus. Go! You are called! Speak words of healing and comfort. Pray for others. Do His ministry in Jesus' name.