

Love God; Love His Church

In Mark 3:1-5 the Bible shows Jesus in the synagogue. He noticed a man with a deformed hand. Since it was the Sabbath, Jesus' enemies watched Him closely. Would He heal the man's hand on the Sabbath? If He did, they planned to condemn Him. Jesus said to the man "Come, and stand in front of everyone." Then Jesus turned to His critics and asked, "Is it legal to do good deeds on the Sabbath, or is it a day for doing harm?" Is this a day to save lives or to destroy them? They would not answer Him. He looked around at them angrily, because He was deeply disturbed by their hard hearts. Then He said to the man, "Stand and reach out your hand." The man reached out his hand, and it became normal again.

In this scripture, we can find some truths about our churches today. God is looking for people who are faithful to become part of His churches. Jesus set the example for going to church. He went into the synagogue to teach most of the time. After all Jesus is the Master teacher. Jesus still teaches us good things today. He releases things to us that we need. This is the reason we need to come to church. In church you are put together with other brothers and sisters in Christ. Everyone needs a Pastor in their lives; someone who is willing to step out and can help you over the rough times. Through Christ he can help push the flock to the purpose God designed for them.

Scripture tells us Jesus went to church on this day and saw a man with a withered hand, You mean there was a church where Jesus saw someone with a problem? You mean a place where there is the good and the bad, the ups and the downs, the oppressed and the free? We waste our time trying to find a perfect church, where there are no problems. Wouldn't it be nice to have a church where everyone is whole?? If that were true, you would not need a church service! I am so thankful there are people who still know what a church should be. People like you and me. Churches go through things like individuals do. Thank God. We all have problems but as a church we know the answer is Prayer and the Faith to believe in Prayer.

Scripture shows this was a church service and a man with a problem. The Bible does not say his name but does tell us his problem. A life dominated problem. His problem named him and became his identity. Some of us have been named by our problems. Through Christ we don't have to be defined by anyone or any issue. We are defined by God. The God who said "I am the head not the tail." The God that said "I am more than a conqueror." The God who said "I will be blessed coming in and going out."

In this same church service there were trouble makers. Jesus did not let the trouble makers stop Him from doing His Father's business. Jesus took the time to address the man who was in need of help. He said to the man, "I want you to take a stand." If you don't take a stand, you will fail. I feel that it is time for the Church goes to take a stand in their life, in their marriage, and in their church. Please take a stand to live for Jesus. The man that everybody knew had a problem, stood among all the people that was present for the service. Then Jesus said I want you to stretch out your hand. Stretch out your problem.. What Jesus was really saying, was to reach out in faith. Jesus was asking, are you ready to take a risk? You cannot have faith, if you are not willing to take a risk. The man had two choices. Obey or disobey. Obey and see what happens. Disobey and stay in your same condition.

The reason I love this story is because at Ryanwood, we will take a stand. We will stand on His Word and His Word alone. We will take that risk. We will stretch out our faith in the Lord. We will love our brothers and sisters as Christ has loved us.

We can learn through Paul's letter to the Corinthians how to become a church of "One Accord". This is our vision for Ryanwood. If this is some of God's principles that you are looking for in a church, please

come to worship the Lord and build His Kingdom according to His will.

God Bless You,
Brother Jimmy