

## Doing That Which Is Appropriate

Mark 3:7-12

- I. Sometimes its difficult for us as Christians to do the appropriate thing at the appropriate time.
- II. Many times we handle things in the wrong way and this affects our ability to reach out to others with the Gospel.
  1. For example, your standing around talking to your coworkers when one of them tells an inappropriate joke and soon you are joining in.
  2. Or as a parent you go to one of your kids sporting events and when it seems that they are not being treated fairly you begin to act in an inappropriate way.
- III. Sometimes this happens when you are simply trying to share the gospel with someone.
- IV. But when we consider the example of Jesus in the Gospel of Mark, we find that he was able to influence people to follow Him because He responded to those around Him in an appropriate manner no matter what the situation.
- V. **As disciples we must respond in appropriate ways if we are to lead others to Christ.**
- VI. This is what we will be considering today.

**Trans:** To begin let's consider a time when Jesus responded in an appropriate way.

### 1. Jesus Responds Appropriately

- A. When we last saw Jesus He had just healed a man with a withered hand, Mark 3:1-6
  1. We noted that the Pharisee's were watching Jesus to see if He would heal the man so they could accuse Him of breaking the Sabbath, **v.2**
  2. Jesus explained that it was lawful to heal on the Sabbath and so He did, **v.5**
  3. During this event the condition of the Pharisee's heart is exposed.
    1. Their hearts were hardened
    2. They hardened their heart to the truth and sought to silence it
    3. Their hardened heart was also self serving. Seeking only those things which benefited their desires.
  4. When Jesus once again quiets their argument, their bitterness towards Him grows, **Luke 6:11**. They are filled with rage at what He has said and done
    - 1 This rage is folly in the sense of dementia.
    2. There is a serious impairment of the faculty of coherent thought.
    3. In Luke it even has the sense of pathological madness.

B. According to **Luke 6:8** Jesus knew the minds of the scribes and Pharisee's, and what He did next is an appropriate response, Mark 3:7-12.

1. Jesus left and went elsewhere, **v.7**

- a. There was no need to stay around those who wanted to harm him.
- b. There was no need to stay around and try and teach those who had hardened hearts.
- c. Jesus wasn't sent to fight or argue with those who refused to listen.

**Matt. 12:18,19**

2. He continued to teach, **v.8-9**

- a. Although there were some who wanted to see Him dead, there were many who wanted to hear what He had to say.
- b. As a matter of fact the people were coming from everywhere in droves
  - 1) Galilee, Judea and Jerusalem represent Israel proper.
  - 2) Idumen, trans Jordan, the region of the coastal cities, Tyre and Sidon constitute southern, eastern, and the northwestern borders.
- c. So many that they were actually falling on Him so as to touch Him,
  - 1) Luke says that power was coming from Him,
  - 2) **Luke 6:19**
- d. Jesus even had to have a boat constantly ready, so that he might escape the crowd.

3. Jesus continued to demonstrate His power over the physical and spiritual, **v.10-12**

- a. He healed the sick.
- b. He cast out the demons
  - 1) The demons once again cry out and declare who Jesus is.
  - 2) Jesus demonstrates His power over the spiritual realm by casting them out and silencing them.

4. Jesus stayed the course and responded appropriately to those around Him so that He might fulfill his ministry, **Matt. 12:20,21**

**Appl:** Even in the face of death, Jesus continued doing what he was sent to do.

He did not allow the threats of others to stop His work. He simply removed himself to a place where he could teach and continued to demonstrate who He was through healing and casting out demons. He responded in an appropriate way which allowed Him to continue His work.

**Disciples must respond in appropriate ways if souls are to be lead to Christ.**

**Trans:** There is a lesson we can learn from what Jesus did. This is our second point.

## 2. Disciples Must Respond Appropriately

A. In looking over what Jesus did we should see that His example is a pattern for us to follow in having an appropriate response.

B. Just like Jesus, we too will be confronted by various situations.

1. Some people will have hardened hearts.
2. Some will be looking for Jesus to heal them.
3. Some will want to hear the message of salvation.

C. As disciples we must be prepared to respond in an appropriate way.

D. Like Jesus there might come a time when we must remove ourselves from those who have a hardened heart.

1. We must shake the dust from our feet, **Mark 6:11**
2. Paul had to remove himself from those who were hostile towards him, **Acts 9:23-25**

E. But, like Jesus we must not allow those who have hardened hearts keep us from our work. We must seek out those who want to hear the message of the Christ, **Acts 8:3,4**

F. When we find those people we must be prepared to respond in a appropriate way. **Col. 4:5,6**

G. We must be ready to preach Jesus to them, **1Pet. 3:15**

1. We must be ready to demonstrate His healing power, **Mark 2:5**  
**Rom. 6:3,4**
2. We must be ready to proclaim His Lordship, **Acts 2:33,36**
3. We must show that He has power over both the physical and spiritual, **1Pet. 1:3**  
**Matt. 28:19,20**

**Appl:** We never know how people are going to react to the message of Christ, but we must be prepared to respond in an appropriate way.

Sometimes that means shaking the dust from your feet and removing yourself from those who have a hardened heart.

But we must continue to respond in an appropriate way by seeking out those who want to know about Jesus and then respond appropriately by showing them who He is.

**Disciples must respond in appropriate ways if souls are to be lead to Christ.**

**Con:** When we look back at this particular event in Jesus' life, we find that there is a lesson for us.

That lesson is one of appropriate responses. At times, sharing the gospel with others can be a difficult task. People will harden their hearts to the truth and some will seek to harm us. They may not seek to kill us, but some will try and humiliate us or discredit us.

But, **Disciples must respond in appropriate ways if souls are to be lead to Christ.**