

Sunday, April 10, 2011—Mark Dispensationally Considered—Mark 3:5: Jesus Gets Angry

The Question of Wrath

- The Greek word translated “anger” in Mark 3:5 carries the following meanings according to *Strong’s Concordance*: 1) anger, the natural disposition, temper, character; 2) movement or agitation of the soul, impulse, desire, any violent emotion, but esp. anger; 3) anger, wrath, indignation; 4) anger exhibited in punishment, hence used for punishment itself
- This word occurs 36 times in the King James Bibles and is translated: wrath 31 times, anger 3 times, vengeance 1 time, and indignation 1 time
 - Matthew 3:7
 - John 3:36
 - Romans 1:18
 - Romans 2:5-8
 - Ephesians 2:3
 - Ephesians 5:6
 - Revelation 6:17
 - Revelation 14:10
 - Revelation 19:15
- There is no way that someone can read these verses and not come to chilling conclusion that God’s wrath is abiding upon those who don’t accept God’s message to them.
- A prominent Pastor from Grand Rapids has recently published a book that calls into question the reality of eternal punishment and the existence of a literal hell.
- Jesus had more to say about the realities of hell and eternal punishment than any other figure in Scripture.
 - Mark 9:43-48
 - Luke 16:19-31
- God’s Justice Demands It: Psalm 73:3 teaches that not all justice is accomplished in this life. Thus, the existence of a place of punishment for the wicked after this life is necessary to maintain the justice of God.
 - When people say would a loving God torment people what they are really saying is I am better than He is because I wouldn’t. This is a lie because given the right circumstances they would.
 - If you believe there is a God than you recognize there are some absolute standards of justice. If there is no absolute right or wrong there is no way to have justice. The issue is not that God is unloving. Rather the only way a just God can function is the separate out the things that offend.

- Justification deals with having the justice of God satisfied and accepting of you. God's justice will give eternal life to anyone with perfect righteousness.
- The holiness of God is made up of two of his attributes one is righteousness the other is his justice. God's justice is the enforcer of his righteousness. When God's righteous standard is violated the justice of God goes into operation to hold people accountable.
- Romans 2:2—this why man in his natural state is in trouble. We have all fallen short of the glory of God.
- Hebrews 9:27--If there is no eternal punishment then there is no way to get real justice.
- God's Love Demands It: The Bible asserts that "God is love" (I John 4:16). But love cannot act coercively, only persuasively. A God of love cannot force people to love him.
 - II Corinthians 9:7—Forced love is not love; it is rape. A loving being always gives space to others. He does not force himself upon them against their will.
 - Hence, those who do not choose to love God must be allowed not to love him. Those who do not wish to be with him must be allowed to be separated from him. Eternal punishment allows separation from God.
- Human Dignity Demands It: Since God cannot force people into heaven against their free will, human free choice demands a hell.
 - C.S. Lewis, *Screwtape Letters*—"There are only two kinds of people in the end: those who say to God, 'They will be done,' and those to whom God says, in the end 'Thy will be done.'"
- The Cross of Christ Demands It: The cross is central to Christianity.
 - I Corinthians 1:17-18, 15:3, Romans 3, 31-26, 4:25—without the cross there is no salvation. Only through the cross can be delivered from our sins.
 - Jesus suffered great agony and separation from God the father upon the cross.
 - Why the cross and all this suffering unless Hell and the Lake of Fire are real?
 - Christ's death is robbed of its eternal significance unless there is an eternal separation from God from which people need to be delivered.
- Genesis 18:25—God will not do anything in the end that is not right.