

## **Mark 3: 1-6**

### **Jesus is Coming Look Busy**

**“ Jesus grieved at their hardness of heart”**

**It is thought by many that pride, self-interest, selfishness is the root sin for mankind. The Pharisees that Jesus was talking to, and at whom Jesus was grieved because of the hardness of their hearts, were so wrapped up in their own self interest that even Jesus' love, compassion, and miracles could not get through to them. They saw Jesus as a threat to their position, to their control over the people, to their way of life, to their own self-interest.**

**Knowing our root sin is very important. But even if we know that our root sin is our self-centeredness, and we decided that we want to change, how do we?**

**I was reading a book last week, and one of the characters**

had a sign on her desk that read: “Jesus is Coming, Look Busy”.

I too thought it was funny, but there are two points I want to make about it: First, for sure Jesus has come, and is coming again, but He has not left us. He and our Father’s spirit is present now and always. Secondly we are not going to fool Jesus by “looking” busy. Looking busy is what we have done all of our lives, it comes easy for most of us. My Mom use to say that idleness was the devil’s workshop, but she didn’t mean to simply look busy.

Looking busy is about me, we have to change the focus of our lives. With our busyness and our lives focused on ourselves we fool ourselves, not Jesus, into believing that everything is OK. We find it difficult to change even a single behavior let alone a pattern of behavior, or a habit, if we even wanted to. We might be able to convince ourselves to stop a

**particular sin, because we don't want to go to hell. But that too is acting out of our self-interest.**

**Jesus wants our hearts, because if He has our hearts He has all of us. How many of us know people that have lived to the ripe young age of sixty, perhaps ourselves, and have begun to be aware of their own mortality, that they are not bullet proof, and wonder, "How did I get here?" They realize that something is missing, and wish that they knew more about God and eternity. The answer to their question, "How did I get here?", is obvious, they made the choices in their lives that brought them to where they are. But they failed to realize, along the way, that not making a choice is, in fact, a choice.**

**So how do we fix or avoid this predicament? We have to change the focus of our lives away from our self-interest and**

**more towards the relationship that God wants with each of us. We first realize that we have been the main obstacle to God in our lives. It is we that have chosen ourselves over God. It is we that have decided how we have spent our resources of; time, energy, passion, and talents. It is we who have decided what is important to us and what is not.**

**So how do we change the focus of our lives, refrain from sin and become perfect in God's eyes? Jesus is not asking us to be perfect, He has saved us even in our sin. He is asking us to accept His love for us. He is asking that His love actually mean something to us, is important to us. Wake up, if not for God's love our life would have no meaning, if not for His love we would not be sharing in His life, we would have no life.**

**Changing the focus of our lives from our own self-interest to God, is a no-brainer, but a pretty big task, there is so much**

**inertia in our lives. Things have been going the same way for a long time, our way. Our changing is a process, a journey. It is not a journey out of the world we live in, but a journey into the world as God created it and sees it. That journey requires different choices, requires that we choose God and things of God and His church. Our journey requires that we seek answers to the basic question of our existence; why am I here and what does God want of me today? As we make time for God in our life, as He becomes important to us we will begin to see the world with more than just ourselves in it. We will learn: that God wants us to be His love in our world, that we were created to be loved by God, thus we were born in love, baptized in love, and we are destined for love. Our life must be a response to His love. Looking busy or being busy is not a response.**

