

A DEVOTIONAL SERIES ON THE GOSPEL ABOUT JESUS CHRIST

HATRED TOWARD JESUS

Mark 3:6 “The Pharisees went out and immediately held counsel with the Herodians against him, how to destroy Him.”

The Pharisees hated Jesus. In Mark 3:1-6 the Pharisees once again believe they have trapped Jesus. They think they have caught Him breaking the Sabbath law. Jesus, however, did not touch the man with the withered hand, but merely told him to stretch it out. Upon doing so, the withered hand was healed. This miracle intensified the Pharisees hostility toward Jesus.

By this time, the Pharisees hatred of Jesus was so great they “held counsel with the Herodians. . . how to kill Him.” Anger and hatred can create strange bedfellows. The Pharisees and Herodians were actually political enemies. The Pharisees wanted to reestablish the throne of David and the Herodians goal was to ensure the ongoing rule of King Herod and the Roman government. In order to get rid of Jesus, the Pharisees hatred of Jesus was so great they sought help from the Herodians, their political arch enemies.

Satan continues to seek out alliances in the world to discredit and silence Jesus. As the Pharisees enlisted the help of the secular world, namely the Herodians, today the evil one uses secular authorities to stop the proclamation of God’s word. Laws are being passed at many levels of government that are in direct conflict with what God’s word teaches. Pastors are being imprisoned because they refuse to stop teaching what God’s word teaches.

When the Jewish rulers attempted to silence the preaching of Peter and John with the threat of doing harm to them, they replied, “Whether it is right in the sight of God to listen to you rather than to God, you must judge, for we cannot but speak of what we have seen and heard.” (Acts 4:20)

Jesus said, “If the world hates you, know that it has hated me before it hated you. If you were of the world, the world would love you as its own; but because you are not of the world, but I chose you out of the world, therefore the world hates

you. Remember the word that I said to you: 'A servant is not greater than his master.' If they persecuted me, they will also persecute you." (John 15:18-20)

Prayer: Lord, lead me to take Your Word to heart. By Your Holy Spirit, work in me a faith that knows You as the way, the truth, and the life. Let not the intimidation of the world prevent me from believing in You and in faith holding solely to Jesus for my eternal life and salvation. In His holy name. Amen.

Lord of our life and God of our salvation,
Star of our night and hope of ev'ry nations:
Hear and receive Your Church's supplication, Lord God almighty.

See round Your ark the hungry billows curling;
See how Your foes their banners are unfurling
And with great spite their fiery darts are hurling, O Lord, preserve us.

Lord, be our light when worldly darkness veils us;
Lord, be our shield when earthly armor fails us;
And in the day when hell itself assails us, Grant us Your peace.

Peace in our hearts, where sinful thoughts are raging,
Peace in Your Church, our troubled souls assuaging,
Peace when the world its endless war is waging, Peace in Your heaven.
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