

## Bad Things in a Good Place

by Linville Dunaway, Corinth Christian Church

**Mark 3:1-2,** "And he entered again into the synagogue; and there was a man there which had a withered hand. And they watched him, whether he would heal him on the sabbath day; that they might accuse him."

The house of worship is a wonderful place. There we can praise the Lord and learn more about him. How wonderful it was to be saved and confess the Lord as savior in the church. There have been many happy times that we have shared in the company of believers. Many of us have been married there and bring our children to worship. It is also a place of encouragement and comfort when we are in trials. I have thought about the times when we laughed together at church and times when we cried together at the death of a loved one. Yet, there are and have been times throughout history when bad things happened in the house of worship.

Part of the problem that Jesus had with the Jewish leaders was their jealousy and envy, both of His popularity with the people and the miracles that he could do. The Lord was basically unknown to them since He had not been to their schools and

didn't have their approval to teach. This put Him at odds with the leadership of the nation of Israel. He was considered such a threat to them that even opposing groups banded together to fight Him. The Sadducees and Pharisees were two such groups, differing greatly in their beliefs, but they were both against Jesus. You may note that even today the Arabs don't believe in Jesus and neither do the Jews, so in this they agree. I read a story of one man who was a Jew and he said that his father slapped him for even saying the name of Jesus in their home.

How sad to think that in the place of worship, where God was to be praised, there were those who planned to kill Jesus, the son of God. They were careful to tithe the right amount and to observe so much of the Law of Moses, but only in that which showed outwardly. The Jews, especially the Pharisees, did their best to look good in the eyes of men and be praised for their worship. Jesus called them hypocrites and told them they only cared about looking good to men. "But all their works they do for to be seen of men: they make broad their phylacteries, and enlarge the borders of their garments." **Matthew 23:5.** For this they hated Him even more and in the temple they plotted to have Him killed.

In Matthew 27, Judas faced the chief priests and elders in the temple after he saw that Jesus was

condemned to die. He threw the thirty pieces of silver down in the temple and tried to undo his betrayal of the Lord. As we read through the gospel accounts there are several times that the Jewish leaders plotted to destroy the Lord and did it in the temple. It didn't bother them that they were guilty of hate and falsehood while in the house of worship. It is a shame that they could stand in the house of God and do such evil.

From that time to now, such things still continue to take place. There have been many times and places where hate has manifested itself in various churches. No one denomination has been guilty of this as pride and envy affects all men. One person told once of seeing people in his church shaking their fists across the aisle at folks on the other side. They were not just on opposite side physically, but on opposite sides on some issue that they disagreed on. We know that they didn't do much, if any, worshipping of the Lord as long as they acted in such a selfish, evil manner. Any time that any of the church acts like that we are an embarrassment to the Lord.

While the Lord Jesus is very displeased with such actions, Satan is happy because he had done much damage to the church as a whole and to the individuals in particular.

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This is a dramatized version of facts taken from the Book of 1 Samuel Intending to show some of the customs of these ancient and traditional times

**SAMUEL AND SAUL**  
SAUL, ON HIS JOURNEY HOME, MEETS WITH A COMPANY OF HOLY PROPHETS AND PROPHECIES WITH THEM JUST AS SAMUEL HAD FORETOLD HIM HE WOULD, NOW...

... HAVING LEFT THE PROPHETS, SAUL AND HIS SERVANT CONTINUE HOMEWARD...

BEHOLD, WE ARE ALMOST THERE!

... AS SAUL REACHES HOME, HE MEETS HIS UNCLE ...

WHITHER WENT YE? TO SEEK THE LOST ANIMALS - WHEN WE COULD NOT FIND THEM WE WENT TO SAMUEL!

AND SAUL TELLS HIS UNCLE OF ALL THE WONDERS THE PROPHET PREDICTED FOR HIS JOURNEY HOME - BUT, BEING A MODEST MAN NOR WANTING TO BE LAUGHED AT, HE SAYS NOTHING OF BEING PICKED TO BE KING!

BUT, EVEN AS SAUL SLIPS BACK INTO THE HUM-DRUM EXISTENCE OF EVERY-DAY LIFE, THE WHEELS OF DESTINY SPIN ON, FOR SAMUEL HAS CALLED THE TRIBES OF ISRAEL TO GATHER AT MIZPEH...

SPEED MY MESSAGE TO ALL THE TRIBES OF ISRAEL, FOR BEHOLD, THE TIME HAS COME!

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