

GOD'S EMOTIONAL REACTION TO SIN

In **Mark 3**, we read about Jesus healing a man with a withered hand in the synagogue on the Sabbath Day. Jesus knew the hearts of those who watched Him to see if He would heal on the Sabbath. He knew their motive was only to find fault with Him (**v.2**).

He challenged their prejudices, asking if it is lawful to do good on the Sabbath or do evil, to save life or to kill (**v.4**). The leaders knew the law concerning the ox or donkey in the ditch on the Sabbath; they were to do good and save life.

This is why they kept silent. To publicly commit themselves to the principle would justify Jesus, and they did not want to do that. By the way, they were in the process of doing evil on the Sabbath Day, seeking to find fault with Jesus so that He could be killed as they tried in **John 5**.

The **verse 5** says Jesus "*looked around at them with anger, being grieved for the hardness of their hearts.*" This is the emotional reaction God has toward sin. It makes Him angry. The Bible often warns that righteous vengeance will certainly come upon the unrepentant and disobedient (**2 Thessalonians 1:8-10**). Sin also makes God sad. We grieve the Holy Spirit when we sin (**Ephesians 4:30**). If we love God, we should be motivated not to make Him angry or sad.

We should also have the same balanced reaction to sin. If we are only angry, we will appear self-righteous and judgmental. If we feel only sorrow, then we may still be unmotivated to do what is necessary to confront the problem.

By anger, we are provoked to confront sin. By sorrow, our anger is tempered to confront with meekness (gentleness) and fear.

This was the attitude of Jesus in **Mark 3:5**. It is the attitude Paul encourages all Christians to show as *servants* of the Lord (**2 Tim. 2:24-26**).

Let us have the compassionate heart of God.