

- ❑ Sometimes people let their religion get in the way of their relationship with God and their fellow man. How is that happening here?

- ❑ What can we learn from the way Jesus responded to them?

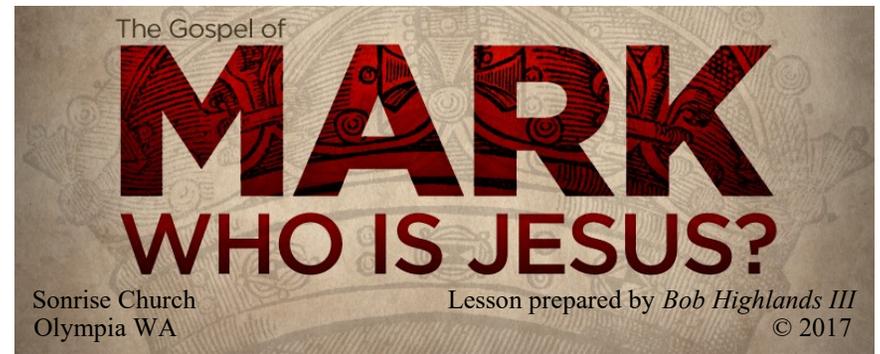
Ministry and Conflict—Jesus and the Religious leaders

- ❑ How could you sum up this section covered in Mark 2.1 through Mark 3.6?

- ❑ How would you describe the way Jesus handled the Pharisees?

Bonus study: What five ways did the religious leaders disagree with Jesus in this section? How did Jesus respond?

1. Disagreed _____
 - Answer _____
2. Disagreed _____
 - Answer _____
3. Disagreed _____
 - Answer _____
4. Disagreed _____
 - Answer _____
5. Disagreed _____
 - Answer _____



MARK 2.1 THRU MARK 3.6 FIVE CONFLICTS IN GALILEE

Doing the right thing for God is not always easy. Especially when there are some who are willing to criticize everything you say and do. In Chapter one we saw the authority and power of Jesus contrasted to his submissive spirit. Chapter two shows us the contrast between religious rules and meaningful ministry. Conflict is a key theme in this section. Jesus offended the Pharisees by breaking their rules and working in an uncommon style. A key is Jesus does not back down or apologize for doing right instead He stands His ground and sets an example for His followers to use when dealing with conflict.

Read the following sections and answer the questions. If you do not know the answer leave it blank. Someday you will. Unanswered questions mean you are still learning. Vs. = verse VSS. = verses

Ministry and Conflict—Healing and Forgiveness

Read verses 1-12 The forgiveness of sins was a complicated matter to the Jews. It required ceremony & sacrifice. It was limited to a few special religious leaders to intercede before God for the sins of the nation and individuals. This was a well oiled business that they did not want Jesus to interfere with.

- ❑ Vs. 1 locate where Jesus is at on the map provided in the first lesson.
- ❑ Vs. 2 what does Jesus do in response to the gathering crowd?
- ❑ What would he be saying to the people? (hint see Mark 1.14-15)
- ❑ Vss. 3-4 How serious a problem did this man have?
- ❑ Vs. 5 The man was physically disabled, why do you think Jesus started by forgiving his sins instead of healing him?
- ❑ Vss. 6-7 Who were the teachers of the Law?
- ❑ What does it mean to blaspheme God?
- ❑ Why is it necessary for God to forgive sins instead of men?

Ministry and Conflict—Law or Grace

Read verses 1-6 In the Jewish religion of Jesus' time it was considered a sign of sin in your life if you had a disease or a physical deformity. People were excluded from entering the temple or the local synagogue. The Pharisees were a Jewish religious sect that believed in life after death. They were also known to be very strict in their understanding and application of Jewish law.

- ❑ According to verses 1 and 2 where and when did this event take place? Why was this important to the religious leaders who were there?
- ❑ Vss. 2 & 6 What type of attitude did the Pharisees bring with them?
- ❑ How would this stop or hinder their being able to minister for God or see the good Jesus was doing?
- ❑ Vs. 6 How did Jesus respond to them personally?
- ❑ How did Jesus respond to them publically?
- ❑ What do we learn about our own feelings here? (see Ephesians 4.26 & Psalm 4.4)
- ❑ One way to define sin is when someone is not listening to God's directions for their life. Who is sinning here and how what would they need to do to correct the problem?

Ministry and Conflict—Work and the Sabbath

Read verses 23-28 It was against the religious rules to do any work on the Jewish Sabbath (Saturday). Picking or harvesting grain to be eaten even when hungry was considering work and a breaking of the Jewish law. When God set up the Sabbath it was meant as a day of rest and not a day of punishment. God rested after six days of creation, yet the first full day for man was a day of rest and preparation.

- ❑ Vss. 23-24 What do we learn about the Pharisees here, and how they are responding to the ministry of Jesus?
- ❑ Vss. 25-26 How does Jesus respond to their question?
- ❑ Why would this answer put them on the defensive?
- ❑ What does he use as his source? _____
Why would this be important in dealing with the religious leaders?
- ❑ Vs. 27 How does Jesus' response about the purpose of the Sabbath undercut the teachings of the Pharisees?
- ❑ What does Jesus mean by saying that the "Son of Man is Lord even of the Sabbath?"

- ❑ Vs. 8 Why do you think they were thinking this way?
- ❑ Vs. 9 How would you answer this question? Why?
- ❑ What lesson was Jesus trying to teach the religious leaders with his Question to them?
- ❑ Vss. 10-11 How does the healing demonstrate Jesus' power to forgive sins?
- ❑ Vs. 12 Which was more important to the people's long term faith in God? Seeing the miracle of the healing or the message they heard from Jesus? (*After you answer the question read Romans 10.17*) How did your answer change?

Ministry and Conflict—Sinners and the Message

Read verses 13-17 It was consider unclean for a Jew to eat with a sinner. They saw it as being contaminated by a non-believer. Pharisees were Jewish religious leaders who believed in the resurrection of the dead and followed the teaching of the religious elders as if it were the word of God.

- ❑ Vs. 13 A pattern will develop concerning Jesus. After his ministry and time in the city where does Jesus go?

- ❑ Vss. 13-14 Levi son of Alphaeus is another name for Matthew. What do we learn about his background and occupation here?
- ❑ How does he differ from the first four disciples Jesus called in Chapter one?
- ❑ What does Levi have in common with them?
- ❑ Where do we find Jesus teaching and ministering to people? Vs. 13 _____, Vs. 14 _____, Vs. 15 _____ Why did he do it in these places instead of in the temple and the synagogues?
- ❑ What types of people was he ministering to?
- ❑ How was the religious rules of the Pharisees different from where Jesus was willing to minister?
- ❑ Vs. 17 Why was Jesus spend so much time with sinners?

- ❑ Who do you think it is harder to reach; someone who is not religious or someone who is? Why?

Ministry and Conflict—Fasting and Wholeness

Read verses 18-22 Part of the Jewish worship and ceremonies often included prescribed times of fasting (refraining from eating food or certain foods).

- ❑ Why would you not fast at a wedding?
- ❑ Who is the bridegroom Jesus is talking about here?
- ❑ Vs. 20 What is Jesus talking about when he says the bridegroom will be taken? Why fast then and not now?
- ❑ Vs 21 How can this illustration be used to understand the ministry of Jesus and the “NEW” Covenant of grace and personal forgiveness?
- ❑ Vs.22 How can this lesson be applied to ministry and the church? (NOTE: Jesus’ goal here is helping all and not removing some to replace them with others)