

# Religion & Religious Practices: A Matter Of Life & Death

## Mark 3:1-6

June 4-5, 2022

- Last Week: Mark 2:23-27 - Religion & The Lord of Rest

3 Sermons On Religion- (Religion Vs. Christianity)

- Religion & The Pleasure Of Fasting (**Mark 2:18-22**)
- Religion & The Lord Of Rest (**Mark 2:23-27**)
- **Religion & Religious Practices: A Matter Of Life & Death (Mark 3:1-6)**

### The Roots Of Religious Practices

1. Traditions: The Good, The Bad & The Neutral

2. Our Hearts (**Mark 3:5**)

3. A Blend Of Both Heart & Tradition

- There Must Be Something (Or Someone) That Can Correct Our Own Traditions, & Especially, Our Own Hearts
- Jesus Is After Their Hearts & Is Concerned With The State Of Their Hearts
- **καρδία** (kardia) - heart, interior, center (**Mark 3:5**)

### 2 Things That Grieve Jesus' Heart

- **ὀργή** (orge) - strong displeasure or indignation directed at wrongdoing (**Mark 3:5**)
- **συλλυπέω** (sylylpeo) - be grieved with, feel sorrow or sympathy (**Mark 3:5**)

1. Hardness Toward Others Grieves Jesus

2. If We Are Obstacles To His Costly Compassion We Grieve Jesus (**Eph. 4:29-30**)

“Is it lawful on the Sabbath to do good or do harm, to save life or to kill?’ But they were silent.” (**Mark 3:4**)

### 2 Effects & Responses

Exposure To Jesus Produces Two Effects:

1. Jesus Exposes Hard Hearts
2. Exposure To Jesus Restores Life

Two Responses To Jesus:

1. Trust & Obey Jesus & Experience His Healing (**Mark 3:3,5**)
2. The Pharisees (The Religious) & The Herodians (The Secular) Want To Destroy Him

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

- Leads To The Cross ...

*Jesus Won't Tolerate Hardness Toward Others Or Obstacles To His Costly Compassion*

### **Community Group Discussion Questions:**

1. How do religious traditions and our hearts relate? Why do you think the Pharisees were so dug in and inflexible?
2. Have you ever felt anger at a church or religious institution? Why? How has that experience affected you?
3. Look at Jesus' emotions and His measured response. What can we learn from him?
4. Why did the Pharisees and the Herodians want to destroy Jesus?
5. We often hear this story in Mark 3:1-6 from either Jesus or the Pharisee's perspective. Discuss what this experience was like for the man with the withered hand.
6. How can we deal with hardness in our own souls? How has Jesus changed areas of hardness in your past?

**Suggested Reading:** *A Tale Of Three Kings: A Study In Brokenness*, By Gene Edwards

**Key Words For Kids To Count:** Heart