



I. **Defining Legalism**

Key Truth: Look Around to Show Mercy. Don't Look Around to Tear Down.

Point: Legalism Will Drive Us to Compromise

II. **The Man with the Paralyzed Hand**

Mark 3:1-6

v. 1-2

Looking Around, Not Up

Point: Look Up to Christ

III. **Just Look...**

Mid-Week Devotional (Take time this week to pray & respond to the following)

Whether we want to admit it or not, all of us have legalistic tendencies. They may be exhibited at home or at work, at church or in the public square. In any case, legalism reveals a heart that is not right before God. Indeed, the legalistic heart is one that trusts its own goodness over the grace of God, and it is cancerous in the life of the Christian.

v. 3-4

To Save or to Kill?

Point: Show Mercy on the Sabbath

Legalism will sometimes rear its ugly head in church. It is no wonder then that Christians are becoming more maligned in society. For when legalism is presented to the unbelieving world as true faith in Christ, Christianity's appeal is lost. Christ Himself is made to look like a Pharisee, and the message that we are justified by grace through faith (Ephesians 2:8) is not communicated. The Great Commission, therefore, remains unfulfilled.

In what ways are we legalistic (at home, at church or anywhere)? What is the difference between legalism and holiness? What does it look like to repent of legalism to pursue holiness in Christ? Take time today to prayerfully consider these things, and come to church next week with the intent to "look around" for the sake of showing mercy.