

# THIS WEEK

GRACE COMMUNITY CHURCH, KAILUA KONA, HAWAII

## happenings

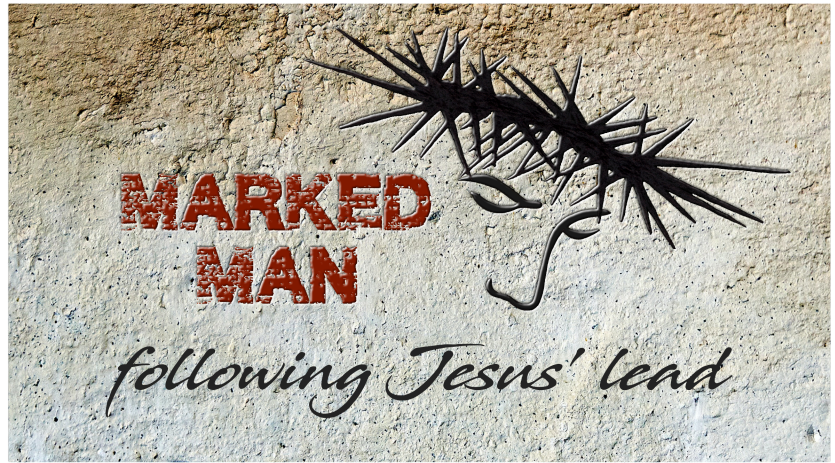
**Nursery and Kid's Church** are up and running every Sunday, and it's awesome! *We also need some more help.* See Michelle if you'd be interested in volunteering in either the nursery or Kid's Church.

**MEMBERS:** We will have our quarterly business meeting next **Sunday, October 18th** immediately following the worship service.

**Kids,** wear your costumes and enjoy some games and lots of candy after the worship service on November 1.

**Middle and High School Student Ministry** is back meeting weekly with Seth Master as our new Student Ministry Director. Gather with us on **Sunday nights, 6-8PM** in the Pavilion and Student Loft.

It's almost time for **Operation Christmas Child**. If you would like to help organize this please let Roxena Quinlan know.



## SERMON NOTES

Andrew Severinsen - Mark 2:23-3:6

**Big Idea:** Mark continues in a series of 5 early, escalating conflicts in which Jesus' power and authority clash with that of the religious and political leaders.

- Five early, escalating conflicts in Jesus' ministry:

Conflict 4 — Jesus' disciples pick grain on the Sabbath

Conflict 5 — Jesus heals on the Sabbath

- Jesus' grief at valuing religious traditions over people:
- Some penetrating questions for us:

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## GRACE GROUPS - discussion questions

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**Starter** — What mentality of the law, or rules around Christianity, did you grow up with? If you grew up with it, what was the motivation for the way in which we were to live our lives?

**Mark 2:23-3:6 — What does it say?**

1. How would you summarize where we have been in Mark thus far?
2. The Pharisees asked about rules observing fasting and now inquire about working on the Sabbath. What actions do the Pharisees think are unlawful in this passage? Does it appear that they are asking in order to find fault, or to find clarity? Explain.
3. How does Jesus defend His disciples' actions?
4. Why does Jesus point to David as an example to the Pharisees?
5. What does it mean that "The Sabbath was made for man, not man for the Sabbath"?
6. Do the Pharisees recognize Jesus as who He says He is in verse 28? What evidence is in this passage for their views?
7. In chapter 3, what problem do the Pharisees have with Jesus and how does Jesus respond to them?
8. Why does Jesus use the phrase "save life" when challenging the Pharisees' views?
9. According to Mark, what is it that grieves Jesus? What is it that makes Him angry? Is it significant that Mark includes both of these emotions? Explain.

**Mark 2:23-3:6 — How does it apply to our lives today?**

1. As we understand the gospels, do we feel more or less freedom when it comes to living with rules or guidelines of Christian conduct?
2. Should we still be practicing some form of the Sabbath? What might it look like? What might it look like this week?

**Five early, escalating conflicts in Mark 2:1-3:6** — Some penetrating questions for us about valuing people over our traditions:

- **Mark 2:1-12** — Do we care more about maintaining our traditions than we care about suffering, sinful human beings finding forgiveness, possibly in ways not anticipated by our traditions?
- **Mark 2:13-17** — Do we value the purity of the traditions of our church more than the joy of sinners following Jesus in ways that may make us uncomfortable?
- **Mark 2:18-22** — Do we glory in aspects of our traditions (perhaps elevated to the level of dogma or ritual) and miss the freedom of celebrating Messiah Jesus' presence in our midst in new, fresh ways?
- **Mark 2:23-28** — Do we believe that our religious traditions were made for man, or have we distorted them to where man is now made for our religious traditions? (i.e., that tail is now wagging the dog!)
- **Mark 3:1-6** — Have we become so dogmatic and protective about our traditions that our hearts may be hardened to our fellow human beings and we have grieved our Savior because of our callused state?