

# Sermon Notes

Series: Mark - On Mission With Jesus

— SESSION 10 —

## EVALUATING THE HEART OF A PHARISEE

As we continue to observe the ministry of Jesus it has become even more apparent that His greatest opposition comes from those who are supposed to represent God the most. The Pharisees did not like, appreciate or agree with most of the things that Jesus did, allowed, or said. There is no doubt that the Pharisees believed they were right which justified their constant conflict with Jesus and His disciples. However, both scenarios that we will read today reveal something deeper than the fact that they were wrong in their beliefs. The heart behind the actions had become corrupt and this is worth evaluating so that we can avoid the same trap that is far too common for us all.

**Mark 2:23 – 3:6** – *And it happened that He was passing through the grainfields on the Sabbath, and His disciples began to make their way along while picking the heads of grain. The Pharisees were saying to Him, “Look, why are they doing what is not lawful on the Sabbath?” And He said to them, “Have you never read what David did when he was in need and he and his companions became hungry; how he entered the house of God in the time of Abiathar the high priest, and ate the consecrated bread, which is not lawful for anyone to eat except the priests, and he also gave it to those who were with him?” Jesus said to them, “The Sabbath was made for man, and not man for the Sabbath. So the Son of Man is Lord even of the Sabbath.” He entered again into a synagogue; and a man was there whose hand was withered. They were watching Him to see if He would heal him on the Sabbath, so that they might accuse Him. He said to the man with the withered hand, “Get up and come forward!” And He said to them, “Is it lawful to do good or to do harm on the Sabbath, to save a life or to kill?” But they kept silent. After looking around at them with anger, grieved at their hardness of heart, He said to the man, “Stretch out your hand.” And he stretched it out, and his hand was restored. The Pharisees went out and immediately began conspiring with the Herodians against Him, as to how they might destroy Him.*

### WHO WERE THE PHARISEES?

1. The preservers and gatekeepers of Judaism
2. The largest Jewish religious group during the NT times
3. The controllers of the Synagogue
4. The harshest critics of Jesus' ministry

### THE DISPUTES REGARDING THE SABBATH

1. It is not lawful to thresh and harvest on the Sabbath (Mark 2:23-25)

**Exodus 34:21** - *You shall work six days, but on the seventh day you shall rest; even during plowing time and harvest you shall rest.*

**Deuteronomy 23:24-25** - *When you enter your neighbor's vineyard, then you may eat grapes until you are fully satisfied, but you shall not put any in your basket. “When you enter your neighbor's standing grain, then you may pluck the heads with your hand, but you shall not wield a sickle in your neighbor's standing grain.*

2. It is not lawful to heal on the Sabbath (Mark 3:1-6)

### THE REAL ISSUES WITH THE PHARISEES

1. They had a wrong view of God
2. They had a wrong view of Scripture
3. They had a critical heart toward others
4. They had a lack of compassion and love for people
5. They had an open door to the work of the enemy