



Week #12 of The Gospel of Mark

November 26, 2023

### Coming Together

- How do you prefer to use your weekends or time off?
- How do you understand the difference between these phrases: “*the letter of the law*” and “*the spirit of the law*”?

### Growing in Our Understanding

1. Read Mark 2:23-3:6? What is the context of these two stories? Why might this be significant to our interpretation and application of God’s Word?
2. According to Mark 2:23-24, what did Jesus’ followers do that so outraged the religious leaders?
3. Look again at Mark 3:1-6. How did the religious leaders respond to the first confrontation over breaking the Sabbath rules? How does Jesus respond?
4. Who is Jesus talking to in Mark 3:4-5? What is it that so distresses Jesus in Mark 3:5?
5. What do Jesus’ actions reveal about His greatest concerns in these two stories?

### Unwrapping and Applying God’s Principles

1. Where have you seen “follow the rules at all cost” spirituality in the church today?
2. Read 1 Samuel 21:1-6. How does this story help us understand what is most important about following God’s rules?
3. What do these verses teach us about God’s Word?
  - Proverbs 30:5-6
  - 2 Timothy 3:16-17
  - James 1:22-25

### Deepening Our Hearts for God

1. What did you learn about the character of God from Mark 2:23-3:6?
2. What do you think God gave us the gift of the Sabbath? What should we do with it today?

### Looking Ahead

Read Mark 3:7-21. Circle, underline, or highlight anything that stands out. What did Jesus do in these verses that surprised you?

