



BEREAN
SMALL GROUPS

FOR THE GOSPEL
ROMANS 1:16

Jesus Came to Upset the Self-Righteous

Mark 3: 1-6

Read Mark 3:1-6 Together:

Again he entered the synagogue, and a man was there with a withered hand. ² And they watched Jesus, to see whether he would heal him on the Sabbath, so that they might accuse him. ³ And he said to the man with the withered hand, "Come here." ⁴ And he said to them, "Is it lawful on the Sabbath to do good or to do harm, to save life or to kill?" But they were silent. ⁵ And he looked around at them with anger, grieved at their hardness of heart, and said to the man, "Stretch out your hand." He stretched it out, and his hand was restored. ⁶ The Pharisees went out and immediately held counsel with the Herodians against him, how to destroy him.

- ? Who did Jesus encounter in the synagogue?
- ? What was the Pharisees' attitude toward Jesus?
- ? Why did Jesus become angry?

Four Reasons a Hard Heart Angers Jesus

1. A Hard Heart Stops Us from Praising God.

- ? Reread verse 2. How did the Pharisees' attitude and expectations of Jesus cause them to miss what he was doing right in their midst?
- ? Do you tend to focus on struggles, disappointments, and unmet expectations in your life? How might that be hindering you from seeing what God is doing right in front of you?
- ? Start intentionally looking for God in your days. Share how you can make time for gratitude this week.

2. A Hard Heart Stops Us from Receiving God's Blessings.

- ? Reread verse 4. What was the Pharisees' reaction to Jesus when he made his case for healing on the Sabbath?
- ? Do you ever remain silent to God because of a hard heart?
- ? How might your silence and avoidance of God keep you from receiving his blessings?

3. A Hard Heart Stops Us from Seeing Others as God Sees Them.

- ? Instead of seeing the paralyzed man's needs and having compassion on him, what did the Pharisees do?
- ? Read Matthew 22:37-39. What is God's command for each one of us?
- ? What happens in your own heart when you see others whom society might label as a burden, bother, or inconvenience? Are there steps you need to take to start seeing them as God sees them?

4. A Hard Heart Stops Us from Entering Life.

- ? Reread verse 6. How did the Pharisees' hard hearts lead to the death of their conscience?
- ? In addition to the death of our conscience, a hard heart can lead to the death of our relationships, including the death of our intimacy with God. How has a hard heart (now or in the past) negatively affected your relationships and intimacy with God?
- ? Has a hard heart perhaps even prevented you from coming to Jesus for salvation?
- ? Read Romans 10:9-10. The remedy for a hard heart is a believing heart. Pray with your group. Ask God to give you a believing heart this week and to breathe life into areas you've felt have become cold or dead.