

## The Unpardonable Sin | Mark 3 | 10.14.18

### In Mark chapter 2 the religious leaders made it clear to Jesus...

1. Don't claim to forgive sin.
2. Don't hang around tax collectors and sinners.
3. Don't neglect fasting, we expect you to follow our example on this.
4. Don't work in order to eat on the Sabbath, have your food prepared in advance.

**Legalism is seductive and destructive.** It's seductive in that it has an appeal to the flesh in some bizarre fashion. It's destructive in that it sucks the joy out of the heart of those who fall prey to it.

### Problems that accompany spiritual opinions:

1. Opinions develop into legalism (*places unbiblical expectations on Jesus and others*).
2. Opinions set like concrete and regardless of appeal; nothing softens their views.
3. Opinions often override compassion for people.
4. Opinions say more than the Bible says.

**Rules** address behavior, but they don't deal with the heart. Grace, on the other hand, is internal. It works on the heart level. **Grace actually changes what we want to match what God wants.**

1. Rules are good, but how people view them and use them can be bad.
2. The "Commandments of God" are not only right; they are good!
3. Rules without relationship create rebellion.
4. Biblical Christianity is a relationship with the person of Jesus Christ that is built on the purest definition of Christ's love for us and our love for Him.

**Mark 3** *And He entered the synagogue again, and a man was there who had a withered hand. <sup>2</sup> So they watched Him closely, whether He would heal him on the Sabbath, so that they might accuse Him. <sup>3</sup> And He said to the man who had the withered hand, "Step forward." <sup>4</sup> Then He said to them, "Is it lawful on the Sabbath to do good or to do evil, to save life or to kill?" But they kept silent. <sup>5</sup> And when He had looked around at them with anger, being grieved by the hardness of their hearts, He said to the man, "Stretch out your hand." And he stretched it out, and his hand was restored as whole as the other. <sup>6</sup> Then the Pharisees went out and immediately plotted with the Herodians against Him, how they might destroy Him.*

**Mark 3:5 "Jesus was angered and grieved" Anyone can become angry.** "But to be angry with the right person, to the right degree, at the right time, for the right purpose, and in the right way—this is not easy." Warren Wiersbe

What do you think is better? To heal a man on the Sabbath like Jesus did or nourish prejudice and hatred and plot a murder?

- Not a good reason to attend the Sabbath services - **Why did you attend Church today?**

**Mark 3:20-21** Then the multitude came together again, so that they could not so much as eat bread. <sup>21</sup> But when His own people heard about this, they went out to lay hold of Him, for they said, "**He is out of His mind.**"

To be fair, Jesus was portraying cult like characteristics. (1) He focused on the undesirables and outcasts. (2) He countered the established religion. (3) He claimed to have ultimate authority. (4) He expected people to abandon everything in order to give him complete allegiance.

**Mark 3:22-30** And the scribes who came down from Jerusalem said, "He has Beelzebub," and, "By the ruler of the demons He casts out demons." <sup>23</sup> So He called them to Himself and said to them in parables: "How can Satan cast out Satan? <sup>24</sup> If a kingdom is divided against itself, that kingdom cannot stand. <sup>25</sup> And if a house is divided against itself, that house cannot stand. <sup>26</sup> And if Satan has risen up against himself, and is divided, he cannot stand, but has an end. <sup>27</sup> No one can enter a strong man's house and plunder his goods, unless he first binds the strong man. And then he will plunder his house. <sup>28</sup> Assuredly, I say to you, all sins will be forgiven the sons of men, and whatever blasphemies they may utter; <sup>29</sup> but he who blasphemes against the Holy Spirit never has forgiveness, but is subject to eternal condemnation"—<sup>30</sup> because they said, "He has an unclean spirit."

God is never neutral to sin; He either forgives or punishes it.

**Mark 3:31-33** Then His brothers and His mother came, and standing outside they sent to Him, calling Him. <sup>32</sup> And a multitude was sitting around Him; and they said to Him, "Look, Your mother and Your brothers are outside seeking You." <sup>33</sup> But He answered them, saying, "Who is My mother, or My brothers?" <sup>34</sup> And He looked around in a circle at those who sat about Him, and said, "**Here are My mother and My brothers!**" <sup>35</sup> For whoever does the will of God is My brother and My sister and mother."

**James 2:19-20** You believe that there is one God. You do well. Even the demons believe—and tremble! <sup>20</sup> But do you want to know, O foolish man, that faith without works is dead?

Mark closed this section by clarifying that a biological relationship does not equate spiritual life.

**John 6:28-29** Then they said to Him, "What shall we do, that we may work the works of God?" <sup>29</sup> Jesus answered and said to them, "**This is the work of God, that you believe in Him whom He sent.**"

**Bible belief** is more than mental consent, it is to trust Jesus with my life, it is to surrender who I am, to who He is.

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Prayerfully read and study **Mark 4** for our 10.21.18 worship service.

Men's Breakfast and Bible Study – Saturday, **November 3<sup>rd</sup> from 8:30am-11:30am**  
**Guest Speaker:** Kirk Kirkland | **Theme:** Jesus, Lord of My Thoughts