

When Doing God's Work

Discussion Questions for Mark 3:1-6

Explore It

What happened after the confrontation between Jesus and the Pharisees? (3:1)

Why were some of the Pharisees watching Jesus so closely? (3:2)

What was notable about the way Jesus performed this miracle? (3:3)

To whom did Jesus address a provocative question about "the Sabbath"? (3:4)

What was it about the Pharisees that so distressed Jesus? (3:5)

What significance do you see in the fact that the Pharisees were willing to plot with their enemies, the Herodians, to kill Jesus? (3:6)

What do Jesus' actions in this passage tell you about His concerns? (2:23-3:6)

Get It

What reasons would the Pharisees have given that Jesus had to be destroyed? When is it a good idea to do something that you know will result in public criticism?

What public or private situations might tempt us to withhold compassion from someone who needs it?

How are a legalistic spirit and a critical attitude related?

How can a long-term habit of criticism and faultfinding result in ridiculous restrictions and foolish regulations?

How did Jesus' question in 3:4 clarify the situation? How can a well-formed question sometimes function better in a debate than simply stating a proposition?

What kinds of people make you angry? Is it people who are caught up in a cycle of self-destructive sin? Is it people who claim to be righteous but who flout the ways of God?

What "strange bedfellows" have you seen united in their opposition to Christianity?

Why are hatred and fear such powerful motivators of evil actions?

Apply It

In what settings are you able to "do good and save life"? How?

What can you use as a reminder to guard against a concern only for the letter of the law?