

MARK

Mark Wk 9
Mk. 3:1-6

General:

- Over the last several conflict stories in Mark (2:1–3:6), what patterns or themes have stood out to you in the interactions between Jesus and the religious leaders?
- Jesus encounters a man with a withered hand immediately after teaching that “the Sabbath was made for man.” Why do you think Mark places these stories next to each other?
- In verse 2, the religious leaders watch Jesus closely—not to learn from Him, but to accuse Him. Have you ever found yourself resisting what Jesus was trying to show you because it challenged something you already believed, wanted, or valued?
- Why do you think it can be so easy for Christians to sit back and watch others critically instead of lovingly?
- Jesus tells the man with the withered hand: “Come here.” Knowing the tension in the room, would you have stepped forward? Why or why not?
- In verse 4, the religious leaders remain silent when Jesus asks what is lawful—to do good or to do harm. Can you think of a moment where silence revealed something deeper going on in your own heart?
- In verse 5, Jesus was both angry and grieved. What stands out to you about the fact that His anger was connected to sorrow rather than pride or irritation?
- Notice verse 5 says “restored,” not merely healed. What’s the difference between those ideas? What might restoration have meant for this man practically, emotionally, and spiritually?

Take Home 1: God's awareness of need is not limited by our ability to articulate it (Mk. 3:1,3)

- Pastor Chip said: "God knows what everyone here is going through and needs." How easy or difficult is that for you to believe personally?
- If God already knows our needs, why do you think prayer and bringing our requests to Him still matter?
- What makes it difficult to trust God when your hurts, disappointments, or needs seem unresolved?

Take Home 2: We can feel so right, but be so wrong (Mk. 3:2)

- In what ways can we become so convinced of our own "rightness" that we stop recognizing what God is actually doing?
- Pastor Chip contrasted the profession of faith ("saying it") with the possession of faith ("living it"). What's the difference between those two realities?
- Pastor Chip said: "The most dangerous people are bit always the openly wicked, but the morally certain who can no longer recognize mercy."
- Pastor Chip pointed out that the greatest need in that synagogue wasn't the withered hand, it was withered hearts. Are there areas in your life where you may be defending being "right" more than becoming loving, humble, or merciful?

Take Home 3: Desperate action in the midst of chaos, doubt, and criticism of others is often where our healing takes place (Mk. 3:5)

- Pastor Chip said: "Jesus often commands what exposes our inability... Sometimes the weakness needs to be brought into the forefront so Jesus can heal." Why do you think Jesus works that way at times?
- What's your withered hand? What might it look like for you to bring that area honestly before Jesus instead of hiding it?
- What's one next step of trust, honesty, or obedience that God may be inviting you to take this week?