



SESSION 3 | JANUARY 23, 2022

**READ** MARK 2:1–3:6.

**WATCH** SESSION 3 | MARK 2:1–3:6. (10 minutes)

[RightNow Media Video: Session 3](#)

- **Discuss:** What was Jesus' inherent message to the Pharisees who kept getting angry at him?

**REFER TO** MARK 2:1–12.

1. What would you—along with the people in the house—expect from Jesus when the paralytic comes down through a hole in the roof? How would you have reacted to His *initial* statement? [“Son, your sins are forgiven.”]
2. What did Jesus' declaration mean for the Pharisees?
3. If you were able to choose, would you rather be healed physically of a life-altering ailment or illness, or forgiven your sins? Why?
4. How does understanding Jesus as the coming King inform your perception of Him and your relationship with Him?

*In the healing of paralytic's legs, Jesus confirmed His ability to heal spiritual brokenness. Notice how often Jesus connects the outward appearance with the inward reality.*

**REFER TO** MARK 2:13–17.

1. Here Jesus calls Levi, the disciple we know as Matthew—the author of the first gospel—to follow Him. Jesus then goes to Levi's house and has a meal with many “tax collectors and sinners.” What ramifications does this have in dealing with the Pharisees?

**REFER TO** MARK 2:18–3:6.

1. What's the focus of Jesus' ministry? Does he prize doctrine to the exclusion of spending time with sinners? *Remember, Jesus never criticizes the Pharisees for knowing the law; He criticizes them for not letting the law that they do know overflow into a love for people.*
2. Who benefits from what Jesus says? Who loses out?
3. What do Jesus' words tell you about how God treats His people and what His hope is for His people?

### SESSION GOALS

**Main Idea:** When we begin to recognize our sin, we see our need for a Savior- Jesus- and our obedience becomes a delight.

**Head Change:** To understand that only Jesus offers the relief for which all of humanity longs.

**Heart Change:** To feel genuine relief through the forgiveness Jesus offers.

**Life Change:** To begin to obey as a result of Jesus' forgiveness.

- 4. Consider:** When those who follow Jesus recognize their sin and his ability to destroy its power, *they're able to follow him into the kingdom of God, resulting in celebration and provision.* As the king, Jesus can and does provide for his followers. In doing so, Jesus also proves that God wanted to do that from the beginning. For example, what the Pharisees turned into a burdensome ritual (prohibiting work on the Sabbath), Jesus returned to God's original intent—rest and provision for his people. Jesus shows the nature of God's kingdom! Yet, instead of embracing Jesus's freedom-giving interpretation of the Scriptures, the religious leaders respond by plotting to kill him. Throughout our passage, we have seen a clear escalation. At first, what began as antagonistic questioning (2:16) grew into a murderous rage (3:6)—one that would end in a crucifixion.
- a. Why do you think they reacted that way?
  - b. What sorts of responses do people today have toward Jesus (consider Christian and non-Christians)? How are we to respond?

## TO TAKE WITH YOU AS YOU GO

*(Consider using this to guide your prayer as you close your time together)*

We've had a chance to look at the sin in our lives and confess it to God. We've looked at the areas where we fight God for control and are working to surrender those to him. But as we saw with the paralytic, the disciples, and the man with the withered hand, *Jesus offers life* too. *He expects us to offer him all of our lives and in return He offers us all of His life.*

- Jesus has come to offer you life. How will you respond? Resistance or surrender?
- Will you follow him into abundant life? What will that look like this week?
- What will it look like to love those around you this week?

