

Date: April 19, 2026
Series: Mark: The Sovereign, Suffering Servant
Title: Grace in the Face of Hard Hearts
Text: Mark 3:1-6



INTRODUCTION

“The Pharisees went out and immediately held counsel with the Herodians against Him, how to destroy Him.” (Mark 3:6)

Note: Throughout chapter 2, the religious leaders have grown increasingly frustrated, offended, and angry with Jesus!

Mark 2:7; Mark 2:16; Mark 2:28

I. WHAT ANGERS AND GRIEVES THE HEART OF JESUS

Mark 3:1-2 -

1) This event needs to be viewed through the lens of the greatest and second greatest commandments: loving GOD with all your heart, soul, mind, and strength, and loving your NEIGHBOR as yourself.

*“This is My commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. Greater love has no one than this, that someone lay down his life for his friends.”
(John 15:12-13)*

Mark 3:3-4 -

2) In incredible wisdom and grace, JESUS EXPOSES both the true purpose of the Sabbath and the hard hearts of those who hate Him.

Note: Jesus' question is meant to draw the listener back to God—to HIS desire for the Sabbath. It is also meant to challenge the listener to examine his or her own heart.

Mark 3:5 -

3) EVERYTHING that Jesus does here is good, holy, righteous, and entirely consistent with His divine character and nature!

JESUS' GAZE perfectly assessed the situation and allowed time for repentance.

Psalm 139:23-24

JESUS' ANGER appropriately demonstrates God's hatred of sin.

1 Peter 3:18

JESUS' GRIEF shows God's sorrow over the hardness (stubborn resistance) of human hearts.

Ezekiel 33:11 and Psalm 119:132-135

JESUS' CHOICE TO HEAL beautifully displays God's mercy, compassion, and grace.

Mark 3:6 -

4) The hard-hearted person does not want to see the truth that is right in front of them.

Questions for Further Study, Reflection, and Application...

1. What has been happening throughout chapter 2? How is Jesus viewed by the religious leaders?
2. What is the greatest and second greatest commandment? How are they seen (or not seen) in this passage? How are they seen (or not seen) in your life?
3. What question does Jesus ask? Why does He ask it?
4. What does it mean to have a hard heart? Have you ever tried to talk with someone who has a hard heart? How did it go? Where have you seen any "hardness" in your own heart?
5. What angered Jesus? What grieved Jesus? Why?