



Adult and Teen Life Groups Conferencing Guide

SERMON DATE: 3/20/2022
DISCUSSION DATE: 3/27/2022
TEXT: MARK 2:23-3:6

HARD HEADS & HARD HEARTS

I. HOSTILE INTERROGATIONS

A. concerning eating on the Sabbath

B. concerning healing on the Sabbath

II. HARDENED HEARTS

A. lead to spiritual dullness—an inability to see the truth

B. lead to spiritual denial

C. lead to spiritual death

D. elicits God's grief and wrath

FOR CONFERENCING

1. **Read Mark 2:23-28, Deuteronomy 23:24-25, and I Samuel 21:1-9.** What was it that Jesus' disciples did that the Pharisees objected to? According to the Deuteronomy passage, what made what the disciples were doing lawful? So then, what was specifically prohibited on the Sabbath? Why did Jesus use the example of David in his argument with the Pharisees? What point did Jesus make by saying, "*The Sabbath was made for man, and not man for the Sabbath.*"

2. **Read Mark 3:1-6.** What does verse 2 tell us about the motives and character of the Pharisees? What point was Jesus making by His question to the Pharisees in verse 4? As noted in verse 4, why do you think the Pharisees "*kept silent?*" What elicited anger and grief in Jesus?

3. Although the New Testament believer doesn't observe the Jewish Sabbath, what is our day of observance? Why does the church gather on Sunday? How should we observe The Lord's Day? In what ways may we fall short in how we should observe the Lord's Day? What might be good practices on the Lord's Day, and what practices might take away from the Lord's Day?

4. Jesus was rightfully angered and grieved at the hardness of the Pharisees' hearts. What may cause hard-heartedness in our lives? Why is hard-heartedness dangerous? What might hard-heartedness lead to (what does it produce and what are its consequences)?

5. In what way might we become hard-hearted? How might we avoid hard-heartedness?

6. In what ways can we become self-righteous and hypocritical? How can we avoid such attitudes?

7. How should we treat those who may not have as much spiritual knowledge as us or spiritual maturity as us?