

## Overcoming a Critical Spirit

Mark 2:23-3:6

- I. Criticized for a Sabbath Snack: The purpose of the Sabbath was to focus on God, not to criticize what others did (Mark 2:23-28).
- A. Scene 1: Walking along a field of grain – The disciples are criticized by the Pharisees for picking grain on the Sabbath but defended by Jesus (2:23-26).
- B. Jesus' Point: Sabbath should be worshipful and God-centered, not critical and man-centered (2:27-28).
- Why we have a critical spirit
1. To make ourselves look better – It helps us “deflect” our own guilt by focusing on someone else’s (Matthew 7:1-5).
  2. To take secret revenge on someone whom we are bitter at for other reasons (Hebrews 12:15).
  3. Because we don’t see or really care about the big picture of someone else’s relationship to God (Galatians 5:15).
- II. Criticized for a Sabbath Healing: The purpose of ministry is to care and help people, not criticize how someone else serves (Mark 3:1-6).
- A. Scene 2: Jesus in the synagogue with handicapped man – Jesus confronts the logic and attitude of the Pharisees who criticize him for healing on the Sabbath (3:1-3, 5-6).
- B. Jesus' Point: We must grasp God’s graciousness toward us in order to overcome our critical spirit toward others (3:4; Psalm 136:1; Romans 15:7).