



## WEEK THREE | CONTROVERSY AND CONFLICT

It didn't take long for Mark to get deep into Jesus' busy life. It seems like yesterday that he was battling it out with Satan in the wilderness and getting his feet wet. Now, he is travelling around with huge crowds all around him, to the point that he can't even get a moment of privacy and peace. This discussion is truly important in that we can often be famous for missing the forest for the trees. Spiritually, that's a bad path.

**What is it about your favorite season(s) that makes it special?** (Hint: for me, it's fall/winter. Come and see my office sometime and you might get that feeling.)

### TALK ABOUT IT

I'm going to take a little different approach here. Instead of reading the miracles, I want us to read the reaction. The premise here is that people were coming to Jesus for physical healing. Is that what they needed? Not much has changed.

**Read Mark 2:6-12, 15-16; 3:4-6**

**Can you share a story about when you got what you needed rather than what you wanted?**

**How do you or do you often see others react when prayers are not "answered" or answered like they hoped or wanted?**

**Where do you often see the goal of purity and righteousness conflict with compassion and love?** These are not opposing forces. Ideally, we want them to co-mingle together, but...

## **APPLY IT**

**Read Mark 2:3–5 one more time.**

**When are you most likely to pray?** (more than just a dinner prayer.)

**Do you have friends or family like those men? Talk about your faith community or lack of one. Who are they?**

**What do you think about having people available for prayer on Sundays (benefits)?**

## **PRAY**

It's always beneficial to close your time together by simply checking in on one another. We may never know what's going on in one another's lives unless we open a door and ask.