

Series Title: Unexpected Kingdom // Opposition Rising

Main Idea: Warning: Religion can be damaging to your spiritual life.

Connecting

Describe a time you thought you were right, only to discover you were wrong.

Do you learn how to play a board game by reading the rule book or by playing practice rounds?

Understanding

Read Mark 2:1-12. How do Jesus' actions set the stage for conflict with the Pharisees? What is at the heart of this conflict?

Read Mark 2:13-17. What are the characteristics of the people who are engaging with Jesus? Why did this upset the Pharisees?

Read Mark 2:18-22. How does Jesus respond to the Pharisees accusations? What claims does Jesus make about himself?

Read Mark 2:23-3:6. What do you think Jesus is trying to communicate when he says He is "Lord even of the Sabbath"?

Living

Jesus drew people to him, instead of pushing them away. What are some ways we can do the same?

Do you have to be in agreement with someone to love them? Why or why not.

From the message we learn that "accidental Pharisees": 1) love to add to God's word 2) care more about rules than people, and 3) have a "holier than thou" attitude. How do we avoid becoming like the Pharisees in these ways?

Next Week: Mark 3:13-34