

# THE REJECTION OF THE KING

## The Gospel of Mark 2:1-3:6

### Bible Study Tools

**Repeating Patterns:** We have a tendency to read the Bible like a collection of separate and independent stories simply compiled without real intentionality. We should, however, read the Gospels, especially, like a novel - where each episode and every detail is part of an overall message.

Sometimes the Bible writers use a formula to tell stories that fit together in a larger section. Look for the pattern that repeats from story to story. Ask yourself, what is the author saying through this? Does the pattern vary at any point? What might that be telling us as the reader?

**Historical-Cultural Details:** It is easy to read a name like the "Pharisees" or "Herodians" and simply pass over them because we do not know who they are. The original readers would have understood, so we must take the time to use reference materials like a Bible encyclopedia or dictionary to fill in the blanks. Understanding these people or groups can be the key to unlock important aspects of the passage we are studying.

### Questions to Consider

- Research the following terms: "Pharisee," "Herodian," and "Tax collector." What did you learn that enriched your understanding of the text?
- What do we learn about Jesus through the healing of the paralytic?
- "Jesus saw their faith..." What does this mean? What do you learn about faith from this story?
- What does Jesus reveal about himself in each of these stories? and what is the pattern or formula common to the stories in this section.
- Think about Jesus' illustration of the "Unshrunk" cloth and the "Wineskins." What is the point he is making?
- How is the final story of the man with the withered hand different from the other stories in the series? What do we learn from that change?

### Comments & Applications

**"He was at home:"** Jesus returns to Capernaum, probably the house of Peter's family. The houses would have been a structure with a courtyard in the center. The roof would have been dried mud and straw.

**At Levi's house** (His other name was Matthew) Jesus is with the tax collectors, sinners and his disciples. As you read the story think of where the disciples are both physically and emotionally. How can you relate to them?

**David eating the special bread:** find this story in the OT. What is Jesus teaching the religious people about legalism?

