

Lesson 9 **The Beginning Of Opposition**

Objective: To learn that if we follow Jesus, then we don't "go along with the crowd".

Background: The Scribes and Pharisees were the religious leaders of the Jews. (also see Lesson 12 Background). They began to go against Jesus' ministry as more and more people gathered to hear Jesus. They thought Jesus was a dangerous person because He did not "go along with crowd" in their thinking and behavior (customs).

Instruction: Read carefully Mark 2:1-18; Mark 3:1-6 as if you are examining (were finding out) why the religious leaders opposed Jesus' ministry.

Let's Think: Examine carefully the following "sample" cases.

Case 1. Read again Mark 2:1-12

- a. What was Jesus doing when the paralyzed man was brought to Him? Explain
Was Jesus upset when the man interrupted His work? Give evidence to your answer .

- b. Who got upset (angry) when Jesus forgave the sins of the paralyzed man? Why?

- c. How did Jesus prove that He really has authority to forgive sins? Explain (Mark 2:8-12)

Case 2. Read Mark 2:13-17 and also Luke 5:27-32

Remember no Jew wanted to be friends with tax-collectors because they collected taxes for the hateful Romans and often collected more than they should, Luke 3:12-13,19; Mark 2:2-10. (Levi is Matthew, the one who wrote the Gospel of Matthew.)

- a. Did Jesus know who Levi was when He called him? Did he hesitate to associate with Levi's friends? Explain

b. Who got upset by Jesus' behavior? Why? (Please read Mark 2:16)

c. How did Jesus defend His behavior? Tell in your own words what Jesus meant. (Mark 2:17)

Case 3. Read Mark 3:1-6

Remember the Jewish law forbids any type of work on the Sabbath including healing.

a. Did Jesus know He would be "in trouble" if He heal the man with crippled hand?

b. Why was Jesus not afraid to heal the man? Give His reason. (Mark 3:4)

c. Who got angry when Jesus healed the man? What did they do? (Mark 3:6)

Summary.

a. Which is more important to the religious leaders: to help the people in need or to keep the law of the Sabbath day? Were they right? Did Jesus "go along" with them? (Case 3)

b. Use Case 2 to explain how Jesus did not "go along with the crowd".

Lesson

a. What are some of the things "the crowd" at school do which you know you must not "go along with" because you have decided to follow Jesus? Give examples.

Let's remember: "Do not be conformed to this world." Romans 12:20 (This means do not "go along with the crowd")