Date: 3/12/23 Message: A New & Better Way Series: Gospel of Mark Scripture: Mark 2:18-3:12

The futility of religion:

A new & better way:

- 1. In what ways was the Pharisees' devotion to God and deep concern for spiritual matters commendable? In what ways were they in error? In what ways are you like the Pharisees, and in what ways are you different?
- 2. What spiritual practices or disciplines do you find yourself using to judge the devotion and spirituality of yourself and others? How are a legalistic spirit and a critical attitude related?
- 3. In what ways is "religion" the natural default mode of our hearts? In what ways do we naturally focus more on the "letter of the law" than on the "spirit of the law" and the motivations of our own hearts? Why should we be concerned about this reality, and what can be done about it?
- 4. How is a person's life before coming to faith in Jesus for salvation like an "old garment" that cannot be merely patched up?
- 5. How is a person's life after coming to faith in Jesus for salvation like "new wine" that cannot be contained within our old way of life?
- 6. How can a person engage in spiritual practices or disciplines without becoming legalistic about it?
- 7. In what specific areas of your life do you feel that God wants to do some major "remodeling"?