

#2 – Are there ways your commitment to what appear to be necessary and important rules has blinded you to what God is doing in people's lives?

Take time occasionally to read the sign just outside the front door to remind yourself why we're here, and why we're doing what we do.

#3 – N. T. Wright, *Mark for Everyone*, asks a very penetrating question that I've wrestled with for a long time and so far have failed to adequately answer for myself.

"Is there a way we can recapture the true spirit of the Sabbath in a world where economic forces are frequently far more dehumanizing than the abused Sabbath law ever was?"

How can we learn again what it means to live in a rhythm of work and rest, and to help one another in our wider society to do the same, without becoming legalists in the process?"



Part 7

Lord of the Sabbath

Mark 2:23 – 3:6

Mark 2:23 – 3:6

²³ One Sabbath Jesus was going through the grain fields, and as his disciples walked along, they began to pick some heads of grain. ²⁴ The Pharisees said to him, "Look, why are they doing what is unlawful on the Sabbath?"

²⁵ He answered, "Have you never read what David did when he and his companions were hungry and in need? ²⁶ In the days of Abiathar the high priest, he entered the house of God and ate the consecrated bread, which is lawful only for priests to eat. And he also gave some to his companions."

²⁷ Then he said to them, "The Sabbath was made for man, not man for the Sabbath. ²⁸ So the Son of Man is Lord even of the Sabbath."

^{3:1} Another time he went into the synagogue, and a man with a shriveled hand was there. ² Some of them were looking for a reason to accuse Jesus, so they watched him closely to see if he would heal him on the Sabbath. ³ Jesus said to the man with the shriveled hand, "Stand up in front of everyone."

⁴ Then Jesus asked them, "Which is lawful on the Sabbath: to do good or to do evil, to save life or to kill?" But they remained silent.

⁵ He looked around at them in anger and, deeply distressed at their stubborn hearts, said to the man, "Stretch out your hand." He stretched it out, and his hand was completely restored. ⁶ Then the Pharisees went out and began to plot with the Herodians how they might kill Jesus.

FOURTH COMMANDMENT

⁸ "Remember the Sabbath day by keeping it holy. ⁹ Six days you shall labor and do all your work, ¹⁰ but the seventh day is a Sabbath to the LORD your God. On it you shall not do any work, neither you, nor your son or daughter, nor your manservant or maidservant, nor your animals, nor the alien within your gates. ¹¹ For in six days the LORD made the heavens and the earth, the sea, and all that is in them, but he rested on the seventh day. Therefore the LORD blessed the Sabbath day and made it holy. Exodus 20:8 – 11

On the Sabbath people were to _____ from their work.

They were to work _____ and rest the _____.

There was also a sabbatical _____ during which farmers were to *rest* their _____.

The Jews are accusing Jesus of breaking the Sabbath by harvesting.

In chapter 3, verses 1 – 6, Mark records a second incident that took place on the Sabbath – healing a man with a shriveled up, paralyzed hand.

“Which is lawful on the Sabbath: to do good or to do evil, to save life or to kill?”

But the Sabbath actually *pre-dates* the Law and Jewish traditions.

Genesis 2:2 & 3, ² By the seventh day God had finished the work he had been doing; so on the seventh day he rested from all his work. ³ And God blessed the seventh day and made it holy, because on it he rested from all the work of creating that he had done.

Verse 27, The Sabbath was made for man, not man for the Sabbath.

THIS IS ABOUT RELIGION VERSES THE GOSPEL

In these encounters, Jesus shows that there are _____ *radically different approaches to spirituality.*

LORD OF THE SABBATH

“The Sabbath was made for man, not man for the Sabbath. So the Son of Man is Lord even of the Sabbath.” Verse 27

RELIGION IS BEING REPLACED WITH HIM

“Then the Pharisees went out and began to plot with the Herodians how they might kill Jesus.” Mark 3:6

Matthew 11:28 – 29 — ²⁸ Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. ²⁹ Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls.”

THREE QUESTIONS

#1 – Who do you most resemble in this passage?

- The Disciples . . . following Jesus wherever he leads . . . which is often into trouble? *“Why are **they** doing what is unlawful on the Sabbath?”*
- The Man with the withered hand . . . the happy recipient of God’s grace?
- The Pharisees . . . religious people turning to political powers in order to maintain their preferred lifestyle.
- The Herodians . . . Political powers turning to religious leaders to broaden their “base” and protect or promote their positions. Because the Pharisees and Herodians *together* had much more influence than either had separately.