

Jesus' Bad Sabbath Habits

Mark 2:23 - 3:6



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Introduction:

Five controversies early in Jesus' Galilean ministry:
1) Jesus heals a paralytic and forgives sins (2:1-12)
2) Jesus calls Levi and eats with sinners (2:13-17)
3) Jesus' disciples did not practice fasting (2:18-22)
4) Jesus' disciples violate the Sabbath (2:23-28)
5) Jesus heals on the Sabbath (3:1-6)

I. THE CONFRONTATION IN THE FIELDS (2:23-26)

A. The Disciples' "Infraction" (vs. 23)

"And it happened that He was passing through the grainfields on the Sabbath"

"and His disciples began to make their way along while picking the heads of grain." (Deuteronomy 23:25)

B. The Pharisees' Indictment (vs. 24)

"The Pharisees were saying to Him, 'Look, why are they doing what is not lawful on the Sabbath?'"

Exodus 20:10

C. The Lord's Illustration (vs. 25-26)

"And He said to them, 'Have you never read what David did when he was in need and he and his companions became hungry; how he entered the house of God in the time of Abiathar the high priest, and ate the consecrated bread' " (I Samuel 21:1-6)

II. THE SOVEREIGN DECLARATION ON THE SUBJECT (2:27-28)

A. Interpretation (vs. 27)

"Jesus said to them, 'The Sabbath was made for man, and not man for the Sabbath.'"

B. Justification (vs. 28)

" 'So the Son of Man is Lord even of the Sabbath.' "

Matthew 12:3-8 - "something greater than the temple is here"

III. THE CONFRONTATION IN THE SYNAGOGUE (3:1-6)

A. The Pharisees' Cabal (vs. 1-2)

"He entered again into a synagogue; and a man was there whose hand was withered."

"They were watching Him to see if He would heal him on the Sabbath, so that they might accuse Him."

Exodus 31:14

B. The Lord's Challenge (vs. 3-4)

"He said to the man with the withered hand, 'Get up and come forward!' "

"And He said to them, 'Is it lawful to do good or to do harm on the Sabbath, to save a life or to kill?' "

"But they kept silent."

C. The Lord's Cure (vs. 5)

"After looking around at them with anger, grieved at their hardness of heart..."

"He said to the man, 'Stretch out your hand.' "

"And he stretched it out, and his hand was restored."

D. The Pharisees' Conspiracy (vs. 6)

"The Pharisees went out and immediately began conspiring with the Herodians against Him, as to how they might destroy Him."

Conclusion:

- 1) Always be sure of your position from Scripture.
- 2) Be sensitive to taking unwarranted, hard positions and making others abide by them also.
- 3) Be prepared for some who will always find cause to criticize.
- 4) Expect that doing good for the glory of God will result in hostile opposition.

"For some reason, people who are advanced in years tend to grow brittle - not just physically, but mentally and spiritually. They gravitate to the familiar, avoid any source of discomfort, cultivate and nurture a strict routine, and grouse about anything that disrupts their carefully maintained comfort. It is a malignant, self-centered perspective that turns all personal preferences into spiritual mandates, and it sucks the life out of those who want to experience life in abundance."

– Charles Swindoll