

MARK 2:23-3:12

REVIEW...

- **Mark** – the Gospel to the Gentiles – showing Jesus as the servant of all - **Mark 10:45**
- **MARK 1:1-13 – THE BEGINNING OF JESUS' MINISTRY**
 - The Gospel – Good News of salvation – is all about Jesus Christ!
 - John the Baptist came preparing the way for Jesus... Jesus came to John to be baptized...
- **MARK 1:14-45 – JESUS' MINISTRY IN GALILEE**
 - The message of Jesus' ministry...
 - Jesus' message - The time is fulfilled – repent and believe in the Gospel
 - He called the disciples – Peter, Andrew, James, & John – immediately they followed
 - The power of Jesus ministry...
 - Jesus showed He had power of the spiritual – cast out the demon
 - Jesus showed He had power of the physical – healed Peter's mother in law
 - Jesus showed He had the power over sin – healed the leper
- **MARK 2:1-22 – CHALLENGE OF THE SCRIBES AND PHARISEES...**
 - 1st challenge – You sins are forgiven – the healing of the Paralytic man...
 - 2nd challenge – Eating with sinners – If you are sick you go to the doctor...
 - 3rd challenge – Fasting? – not during the wedding! – Not righteous by our works
 - Old vs. New – The Old Covenant gone – Jesus was establishing the New Covenant of Grace

STILL ON THE ATTACK ~ THE SABBATH... (3 THINGS) VS. 2:23 – 3:6

- **BREAKING THE SABBATH... VS. 23-26**
 - The Disciples were hungry...
 - Much like walking through the tubo – if your hungry you grab a piece and eat
 - The problem was not eating the grain – that was allowed - **Deuteronomy 23:25**
 - **Luke 6:1** – "...plucked the heads of grain and ate *them*, rubbing *them* in *their* hands."
 - The problem was rubbing the grain in their hands (*harvesting*)... on the Sabbath!
 - What is the Sabbath...
 - In the beginning - **Genesis 1 & 2** - God established the 6-day workweek...
 - God worked 6 days to create the World – man is only to work 6 days a week
 - The 7th day is a day of rest – it came to be known as the Sabbath...
 - We still have the word in Illongo – Sabado means Sabbath – the day of rest
 - It was God's command that man rest on the 7th day of the week...
 - The 7th day - Saturday or Sunday...
 - Saturday is the Jewish Sabbath (*day of rest*)
 - The first church celebrated Sabbath on Sundays – resurrection of Jesus – **Acts 20:7**

- That is why we consider Sunday to be our day of rest...
- Now it was against the Law to do any work on the Sabbath...
 - **Exodus 35:2** – “Work shall be done for six days, but the seventh day shall be a holy day for you, a Sabbath of rest to the LORD. Whoever does any work on it shall be put to death.”
 - The Pharisees had decided that rubbing grain was work – harvesting / threshing
 - It may seem funny to think that such a simple act would break the Sabbath but...
 - The challenge was the Bible said you couldn’t work on the Sabbath...
 - But as for what constituted “work” – that’s where the Pharisees stepped in...
 - They defined what “God meant” when He said you could not work (*39 do not’s*)
 - In Israel today: there are Shabbat elevators (*pushing a button is work*)
 - You cannot spend any money – that’s work (*credit cards are OK*)
 - You cannot toast your bread or cook rice! (*you are not allowed to kindle a fire*)
 - Pharisees defined what “work” meant - but they missed the purpose of the Sabbath
- **THE LORD OF THE SABBATH... VS. 27-28**
 - Jesus answered the Pharisees accusations by redefining the Sabbath...
 - David & the Showbread...
 - King David got hungry one day (*like the disciples*) - while running from Saul
 - He came to the tabernacle and asked for some food... **I Samuel 21:2-6**
 - The only food they had was the 12 loaves of Show Bread...
 - Only the Priests were allowed to eat that Bread – **Leviticus 24:9**
 - In spite of being against the Law – David ate the bread – he was Hungry!
 - David’s hunger was more important than the law concerning the “Priests Bread”
 - The point Jesus is making: Man is more important than the Sabbath...
 - “He said to them, ‘The Sabbath was made for man, and not man for the Sabbath...’”
 - God did not create us to follow the Sabbath – He gave the Sabbath to us!
 - It was meant to give us a day to unwind – rest – recover
 - It is no longer required – but it is probably a really good idea
 - If God, who created us, gave us a day to rest – it’s probably a good idea to take it
 - It really does not matter which day – Sabado / Domingo / Hwebes
 - **Matthew 12:7** - Mercy and not Sacrifice...
 - Having corrected them – we are told in Matthew Jesus challenged the Pharisees
 - If you had known what this means...
 - **Hosea 6:6** – “For I desire mercy and not sacrifice, and the knowledge of God more than burnt offerings.”
 - Pharisees made the mistake of thinking God was most concerned about the law
 - Rather than realizing God was most interested in the hearts of men...

- Pharisees condemned men because they broke “their interpretation of the law”
- But they missed the real purpose of the Law – to teach men about God
- Jesus would call them “Blind Guides”...
 - **Matthew 23:23-24** – “Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you pay tithe [*from your garden spices*], and have neglected the weightier matters of the law: justice and mercy and faith. These you ought to have done, without leaving the others undone. Blind guides, who strain out a gnat and swallow a camel!”
 - The Pharisees were supposed to teach others how to follow God (*guides*)
 - But they strained out the mosquito, only to swallow the Caribou
 - Meaning they would make sure to follow the smallest details of the law...
 - But they missed the more important matters of the Word – they missed Jesus!
 - Often in the church we find people overly concerned about unimportant things
 - People want to judge what you wear – where you live - who you know
 - What kind of work you do - what church you go to
 - They are only concerned about the outside and appearances
 - But they miss what really matters – which is our heart for Jesus!
 - Our goodness is not based on where we go to church, or what we wear
 - It is not based on what we eat, or how much money we do or don’t have
 - The only thing that matters is our relationship with the Lord!
- Jesus, the Lord of the Sabbath...
 - The real purpose of the Sabbath was to point us to Jesus!
 - **Colossians 2:16-17** – “So let no one judge you in food or in drink, or regarding a festival or a new moon or Sabbaths, which are a shadow of things to come, but the substance is of Christ.”
 - If you see the shadow of your best friend do you run up and hug the shadow??
 - Of course not! – But the shadow does tell you your friend is close...
 - The Sabbath was a shadow of Jesus – He is where we find true rest!
 - Pharisees only saw the shadow – they thought it was only about the Sabbath
 - They missed who was right in front of them – they missed Jesus!
 - Don’t be so concerned about your traditions that you miss Jesus
- **HEALING ON THE SABBATH... VS. 1-6**
 - Catching Jesus in the act...
 - Jesus went into the synagogue (*Luke says the next week*) – to prove His point
 - Inside was a man who had (*Imperfect*) a withered hand...
 - This man had not been born with a bad hand – injured (*stroke, accident, disease*)
 - He knew what it was to have a healthy hand – but now he was disabled...
 - No doubt a financial hardship – as well as an emotional one
 - The Scribes & Pharisees watched Jesus closely to see if He would heal him...

- After their encounter the week before – they were ready to ‘bust’ Jesus
- According to their interpretation of the Law you could not heal on the Sabbath
- The most you could do was to save a life if someone was dying...
- Any more than that and it would constitute work
- ‘Step forward’ – Jesus was not intimidated – He defiantly had the man step into plain view
 - Is it lawful on the Sabbath to do good or evil – save life or kill...
 - To not help out a man who is hurting – when you can – is evil
 - To not save a life – when you can – is to kill
 - Jesus could help - so if He did nothing He would be doing evil on the Sabbath...
 - The point Jesus makes - how much better to do good on the Sabbath!
 - I imagine the man with the withered hand agreed! – He did not care what day it was!
 - How terrible to leave this man to suffer – for the sake of silly rules!
 - But in the religious leaders attempt to follow their rules – they had lost sight of love
 - They would leave a man to suffer – whom Jesus could be made whole
 - Jesus looked on them in anger (*only mentioned here in Mark*)...
 - Jesus was infuriated with the leaders because of their lack of compassion
 - Yet Jesus’ anger was tempered by his grief – at the hardness of their hearts...
 - It was the leaders rules that hardened their hearts – so they could not see...
 - They thought they were serving God by not healing a man who was suffering
 - Foolish thought – but they had been blinded by their self-righteous rules
 - Bare foot youth and a brand new carpet in the church...
 - You can come to church – if you dress the right way / say the right things...
 - It is wrong when we are more concerned about our rules than about others
 - The point of the Bible is to point us to Jesus – not keep us from Him!
- Healing on the Sabbath...
 - Jesus commanded the man to stretch out his withered hand
 - When he did it was made whole...
 - In total Jesus healed 7 times on the Sabbath...
 - He did it so often you might wonder what he did the other 6 days of the week
 - Jesus did it to make a point...
 - Jesus did not come to live up to the Pharisees rules – He came to save lives
 - The Pharisees were so caught up on looking right on the outside they missed Jesus!
 - The “church” had gotten lost in it’s traditions and rules and forgotten why
 - We go to Church on Sunday (*maybe even twice a week*)
 - We take communion once a month - We read our Bibles... pray...
 - But why do we do all these things – just because...
 - Are we so caught up in the traditions that we miss Jesus...
 - What message do we give to others – the Gospel of what they must do
 - Or the Gospel of who they should know – do we tell them about Jesus!
- Jesus had shown the Pharisees they missed the heart of the law – to know God

- Jesus also showed how they cared more for words than for men...
- They went out and plotted with their bitter rivals – the Herodians (*secularists*)
- Unable to formulate a comeback against Him... they began to plot how to kill Jesus...

LOVING THE PEOPLE... VS. 7-12

● JESUS WITHDRAWS...

- Jesus saw the malicious intentions of the religious leaders – so He backed away...
 - One of 11 times recorded in the Mark that Jesus ‘withdraws’...
 - Jesus walked a fine line – these men would crucify Him – but it was not the right time
- But the multitudes heard...
 - Word of Jesus miracles had spread far and wide...
 - They came from Jewish cities – Jerusalem & Idumea (*Edom - only mentioned here in NT*)
 - They came from Gentile cities – Tyre & Sidon – literally everyone from everywhere!
- Jesus had the disciples prepare a small boat - concern the multitudes would crush them
 - He healed the sick – cast out all unclean spirits...
 - Jesus did not care about the peoples background, nationality, creed, or politics
 - He just met the people where they were – and healed them!
 - **We are not known as Jesus’ disciples because of our denomination or doctrine...**
 - **John 13:35 – “Your love for one another will prove to the world you are my disciples.”**
 - **Rather than get caught up in our traditions – labels – denominations**
 - **The example Jesus gave was to simply love people – meet them where they are...**