**The Gospel of Mark Series April 28, 2024**

**Mark 2:23 – 3:6 – The Sabbath**

Day of rest

* Instituted by God **from the beginning** (see Genesis 1:31 – 2:3)
* God was not “tired” after creation
  + Indefatigability – God cannot get exhausted
  + God has unlimited resources and He is all powerful
* He established a pattern of work / rest **for mankind**
  + Men and women DO NEED to rest
  + Our bodies have limited resources

About the Sabbath

* It is so important, that God made it 1 of the 10 commandments (see Exodus 20:8-11)
* Means “cease,” “rest,” “complete rest,” or “desist”
* It is a holy day – set apart to the Lord
* It was to be observed even during the planting and harvest seasons (see Exodus 34:21)
* It was to be a sign to the surrounding pagan nations that Israel was different (Exodus 31:13)
* The penalty for working the Sabbath was to be **death**   
  (see Exodus 35:2)
* The Sabbath is from sundown on Friday evening until sundown on Saturday evening
* The two key questions are:
  + What does it mean to rest?
  + Is there any labor or work that is permitted on the Sabbath?

The OT Law Allowed Taking Grain That You Did Not Plant

Deuteronomy 23:25  
When you enter your neighbor’s standing grain, then you may pluck the heads with your hand, but you shall not wield a sickle in your neighbor’s standing grain.

Eating was permitted on the Sabbath

* The disciples were simply having their meal as they traveled to their next destination

David took bread **consecrated to the Lord**

* It was first given to the Lord as an offering on the table in the Tabernacle
* When it was removed and replaced with fresh bread, the priests were allowed to eat it
* Jesus is making clear that David could consume bread set aside for the Lord and the priests, so His disciples could eat a few grains on the Sabbath
  + There was a precedent for what the disciples were doing

Purpose of the Sabbath

* It was given so that men and women could have a **day of rest from work**
  + It was never meant to be a legalistic pattern to trip up God’s people

Pharisees wanted to **trap Jesus**

* Would Jesus perform a miracle on the Sabbath and thus be working?
  + Jesus points out how ridiculous their motivations were
  + “Is it lawful to do good … on the Sabbath?”
  + “Is it lawful to save a life” on the Sabbath?

Jesus is frustrated with the Pharisees lack of **compassion**

* He is grieved and angered because of their “hardness of heart”
  + He heals the man with the withered hand

The Pharisees begin to plot for Jesus’ **death**

* They came to together with the Herodians in opposition of Jesus
* The Pharisees and Herodians see Jesus as a threat to their power and realize He must be killed
  + From this time forward, they [both groups] continually look for ways to put Jesus to death

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