

Saturday, March 7
Jesus Is Lord of The Sabbath ~ Mark 2:23-3:6

These verses cover the time Jesus and His disciples walked in a grain field on the Sabbath, and the disciples took some grains of wheat and ate them as they walked. The Pharisees saw this and complained to Jesus that they had broken the law by working on the Sabbath. Jesus reminded them David, in one time of great need, had entered the house of God and eaten the altar bread. Not long after this, Jesus went into the synagogue again, where He encountered a man with a withered hand. The Pharisees once again watched to see if Jesus would break the Sabbath laws by healing the man on the Sabbath. In healing the man's hand, Jesus asked if it was lawful to do good or do evil on the Sabbath. He always put the Pharisees in a dilemma, and their hatred for him grew. To the Pharisees, religion was ritual; to Jesus, religion was service.

I am glad that I follow Jesus, because man's rules are too numerous at times, and they sometimes ignore the humanity and needs of their fellow man. The thing Jesus cared about most was not that we get everything perfect with rituals, but that we answer spontaneously the cry of human need. Love and mercy and service and forgiveness are at the heart of religion, not rules and regulations.

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Jesus Is Lord of the Sabbath

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

²⁵He answered, "Have you never read what David did when he and his companions were hungry and in need? ²⁶In 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."

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

Jesus Heals on the Sabbath

3 Another time Jesus went into the synagogue, and a man with a shriveled hand was there. ²Some 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. ³Jesus said to the man with the shriveled hand, "Stand up in front of everyone."

⁴Then 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.

⁵He 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. ⁶Then the Pharisees went out and began to plot with the Herodians how they might kill Jesus.