

Lord of the Sabbath - Mark 2:23-3:6

Topics: Healing, Hypocrisy, Judging Others, Law, Legalism, Obedience, Rest

Open It

- * 1. How do you prefer to use your weekends?
- 2. What do you understand to be the difference between “the letter of the law” and “the spirit of the law”?

Explore It

- 3. What is the setting of the story, and why is it significant? (2:23)
- * 4. What did the disciples do that outraged the Pharisees? (2:24)
- 5. Why did the Pharisees confront Jesus about the actions of His disciples? (2:24)
- * 6. What was Jesus’ response to the Pharisees’ charges? (2:25-27)
- * 7. According to Jesus, why were the disciples of both David and Jesus justified in breaking the Sabbath? (2:25-27)
- 8. Why did Jesus say He was “Lord even of the Sabbath”? (2:28)
- 9. What happened after the confrontation between Jesus and the Pharisees? (3:1)
- 10. Why were some of the Pharisees watching Jesus so closely? (3:2)
- 11. What was notable about the way Jesus performed this miracle? (3:3)
- 12. To whom did Jesus address a provocative question about “the Sabbath”? (3:4)
- 13. What was it about the Pharisees that so distressed Jesus? (3:5)
- 14. What significance do you see in the fact that the Pharisees were willing to plot with their enemies, the Herodians, to kill Jesus? (3:6)
- 15. What do Jesus’ actions in this story tell you about His concerns? (2:23-3:6)

Get It

- 16. Why do you think Jesus healed the man publicly?
- 17. How was Jesus’ spirituality different from that of the Pharisees?
- 18. Where have you seen rules-only spirituality in the church today?
- 19. In what areas do you think your church might be following the “letter of the law” rather than the “spirit of the law”?
- 20. How should we respond to suggestions that it only matters how closely we keep the letter of the law?
- * 21. When have you ever experienced a time when the requirements of your Christian faith seemed to conflict with a human need?
- * 22. What should we do when a requirement of the faith seems to conflict with a human need?
- 23. In what areas of your faith do you tend to be too beholden to rules or traditions?
- 24. What are your responsibilities on the Sabbath?
- 25. What is Jesus’ attitude toward the Sabbath?
- 26. In what ways can we copy Jesus’ example in how He used the Sabbath?
- 27. What difference does it make that “the Sabbath was made for man”?

Apply It

- * 28. In what settings are you able to “do good and save life”? How?
- 29. What can you do this week to reflect God’s design for the Sabbath?
- 30. What can you use as a reminder to guard against a concern only for the letter of the law?