

The Pharisees went out and immediately held counsel with the Herodians against him, how to destroy him. Mark 3:6 (ESV)

Application

1. **Jesus has all authority. He even has authority over the Sabbath, because he created it.**
2. **We live our faith by displaying compassion toward those in need, not flawless observation of religious practices.**
3. **God gave us the Sabbath as a blessing to be enjoyed, not a burden to be dreaded.**
4. **Jesus is our Sabbath.**

Life Group Questions

1. Read Mark 2:23-3:6 to familiarize yourself with the passage.
2. In the message, we learned about the ways the Jews observed the Sabbath in the time of Jesus. How did they twist the Sabbath away from God's intent?
3. What do each of these passages teach us about the way God wanted the Sabbath observed? (Genesis 2:1-2; Exodus 20:8-11; Deuteronomy 5:12-15; Exodus 31:17; Leviticus 23:3)
4. We live in a 24-7 work world. The nations around ancient Israel also observed a 7-day work week. How does knowing God insisted his people would be different because they took time for rest and worship change the way you think about following Christ in our non-stop world? (Mark 2:27)
5. Many people think of the Christian life as a list of rules and restrictions, like the Pharisees with their thousands of Sabbath taboos. Jesus challenged that false belief by insisting man-made religious regulations should never come before showing compassion for others in need. What do these verses teach us about how we can live our faith by showing compassion towards others around us? (Colossians 3:12; Ephesians 4:32; Matthew 5:23-24; Luke 10:33-35; Mark 8:2)
6. Today Jesus is our Sabbath and we celebrate our day of worship and rest on Sunday, the first day of the week. The Sabbath was created as Saturday, the last day of the week. What does Mark 2:28 teach us about Jesus' ability to change the Sabbath? What do these verses teach us about how Jesus changed our day of worship to Sunday? (John 20:1, Revelation 1:10; John 20:19, 26; Acts 20:7; 1 Corinthians 16:2)

MARK THE KING AND THE CROSS

Mark 2:23-3:6 – Jesus Is Lord Of The Sabbath.

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1. **The Sabbath was created to be a gift, not a burden.**

One Sabbath he was going through the grainfields, and as they made their way, his disciples began to pluck heads of grain. Mark 2:23 (ESV)

If you go into your neighbor's standing grain, you may pluck the ears with your hand, but you shall not put a sickle to your neighbor's standing grain. Deuteronomy 23:25 (ESV)

And he said to them, "Have you never read what David did, when he was in need and was hungry, he and those who were with him: how he entered the house of God, in the time of Abiathar the high priest, and ate the bread of the Presence, which it is not lawful for any but the priests to eat, and also gave it to those who were with him?" Mark 2:25–26 (ESV)

And they watched Jesus, to see whether he would heal him on the Sabbath, so that they might accuse him. Mark 3:2 (ESV)

And he said to them, "The Sabbath was made for man, not man for the Sabbath. Mark 2:27 (ESV)

And he said to the man with the withered hand, "Come here." And he said to them, "Is it lawful on the Sabbath to do good or to do harm, to save life or to kill?" But they were silent. Mark 3:3–4 (ESV)

So the Son of Man is lord even of the Sabbath." Mark 2:28 (ESV)

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things were made through him, and without him was not any thing made that was made. John 1:1–3 (ESV)

He was in the world, and the world was made through him, yet the world did not know him. John 1:10 (ESV)

And a man was there with a withered hand. And they asked him, "Is it lawful to heal on the Sabbath?"—so that they might accuse him. He said to them, "Which one of you who has a sheep, if it falls into a pit on the Sabbath, will not take hold of it and lift it out? Of how much more value is a man than a sheep! So it is lawful to do good on the Sabbath." Matthew 12:10–12 (ESV)

And he looked around at them with anger, grieved at their hardness of heart, and said to the man, "Stretch out your hand." He stretched it out, and his hand was restored. Mark 3:5 (ESV)

2. The Sabbath is the right time to help those in need.

Again he entered the synagogue, and a man was there with a withered hand. Mark 3:1 (ESV)

But they were filled with fury and discussed with one another what they might do to Jesus. Luke 6:11 (ESV)