

Series: The Gospel of Mark
"Lord of the Sabbath" Pt. 2 # 13
Mark 3:1-6
3-19-17 Sun PM

The Pharisees had developed a system of 613 laws, 365 negative commands and 248 positive laws...By the time Christ came it had produced a heartless, cold, and arrogant brand of righteousness.

We come to a section where Jesus directly confronts the man-made traditions and rules of the self-righteous Pharisees that they added their oral traditions to the Biblical Sabbath.

TT- Today we see two incidents where Jesus challenged the Pharisees understanding of the Sabbath. This morning we taught the first one dealing with plucking corn on the Sabbath.

Tonight Jesus heals a man with a withered hand also on the Sabbath.

I. The Setting (3:1-2).

1. v. 1- The Man's Condition.

Luke says the man's right hand was withered. The word means atrophy of lifeless. Obviously he could not work and was reduced to begging at the synagogue.

Jesus could have healed him the next day but chose to do it on the Sabbath to make another spiritual point.

2. v. 2- The Pharisees Observation.

They watched Jesus to see if He would heal the man on the Sabbath so they might accuse him. Some believe they set Jesus up and placed the man at the Synagogue.

They had added to the law regulations about what kind of care and what level of care could be given on the Sabbath. Unless it was saving a life they considered all other care as work.

Notice what the Pharisees cared about:

1. They did not care about the man's well-being.
2. They did not care about the supernatural healing power of Jesus.
3. Their only concern was to charge Jesus as a Sabbath breaker. Jesus went out of his way to confront the self-righteous Pharisees.

I. The Setting (3:1-2).

II. The Squabbling (3:3-5).

v. 3: There is no indication the man asked Jesus to heal him or even expressed faith that he could. Jesus calls him to come forth after his teaching.

Matt. 12:10-12, "And, behold, there was a man which had his hand withered. And they asked him, saying, Is it lawful to heal on the Sabbath days? that they might accuse him. (11) And he said unto them, What man shall there be among you, that shall have one sheep, and if it fall into a pit on the Sabbath day, will he not lay hold on it, and lift it out? (12) How much then is a man better than a sheep? Wherefore it is lawful to do well on the Sabbath days.

v. 4: Jesus turns to his accusers and asks a question. This was a powerful question:

1. Jesus exposed their man-made rules and traditions. The true law encourage good and to help people.
2. Jesus exposed their calloused attitude toward the suffering. They cared less about the man's condition.
3. Jesus exposed their true intentions.

They kept silent. A response either way would have exposed them.

v. 5: With righteous anger for the hardness of their hearts, Jesus heals the man.

Jesus was making a mark with His preaching, his defiance of the Pharisees, and this unmistakable miracle.

III. The Scheming (3:6).

Did the Pharisees bow the knee and receive the long-awaited Messiah? Having placed their confidence in their self-righteous works and traditions, they rejected the Word of God and the Son of God.

Let's look at the **Herodians**. They were secular Jews that supported Herod. These two groups found a common enemy in Jesus.

So intense was the hatred toward Jesus that they joined with their religious enemies to plot his demise.

Con: They plotted but God in the right time offered his Son up on the cross as redeemer for our sins.

Questions we need to ask of our rules and traditions.

1. Is this rule a principle or a preference?
2. Is this rule set up to make me appear more holy than others?
3. Is this rule designed to bring people to Jesus or keep them away?