

Series: The Gospel of Mark
"Lord of the Sabbath" Pt. 1 # 12
Mark 2:23-28
3-19-17 Sun AM

What is legalism or a legalist? Legalism is adding to the Bible man-made rules or traditions for salvation or spirituality! A legalist is the one who does it.

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 teach the first one dealing with plucking corn on the Sabbath.

Before we look at this passage, I need to make one important point. God had made a provision for his people to pluck a few heads of grain while walking beside a ripened field.

Deut. 23:25, "When thou comest into the standing corn of thy neighbour, then thou mayest pluck the ears with thine hand; but thou shalt not move a sickle unto thy neighbour's standing corn.

I. The Accusation of the Pharisees (vs. 23-24).

The Pharisees accused Jesus of violating the rabbinic law yet we wonder how they followed Jesus through the corn fields and remained within 3,000 feet of their homes.

The disciples did not violate the biblical law but the oral law that the Pharisees added to the Torah.

They elevated themselves as the authority over Sabbath-day observances.

The Pharisees wanted to protect their petty rules in their hypocritical external religion.

Matt. 15:3-6: But he answered and said unto them, Why do ye also transgress the commandment of God by your tradition? (4) For God commanded, saying, Honour thy father and mother: and, He that curseth father or mother, let him die the death. (5) But ye say, Whosoever shall say to his father or his mother, It is a gift, by whatsoever thou mightest be profited by me; (6) And honour not his father or his mother, he shall be free. Thus have ye made the commandment of God of none effect by your tradition.

I. The Accusation of the Pharisees (v. 24).

II. The Answer of Jesus (vs. 25-28).

1. Jesus Pointed Them to the Scriptures (vs. 25-26).

Jesus exposed their ignorance of the OT and their ignorance of the true meaning of I Sam. 21:1-6. Human need comes first.

Showing compassion was above ritual and ceremony. God never intended that ceremony, ritual, and tradition stand in the way of mercy, kindness, and goodness toward others in need.

2. The Sovereign (vs. 27-28). Note the two shocking statements:

(1). v. 27- The Sabbath was made for man, and not man for the Sabbath.

The purpose for the Sabbath was to give the people a day of rest but the Pharisees had added to the Sabbath and made it a day of burden.

The Pharisees were the real violators of the Sabbath.

(2). v. 28- The Son of man is Lord of the Sabbath.

Jesus clearly claimed to be sovereign ruler over the Sabbath and thus claiming to be God and Creator. He was the Messiah.

From this point on they sought to kill him (3;6). Their hostility and hatred could not be satisfied till they had him murdered.

Con:

The legalists and legalism is still with us today. Rules and regulations as to what I can do or can't do.

I love tradition but hate traditionalism. I love the fundamentals but hate fundamentalism.

We make several mistakes in regard to the Sabbath:

1. The Sabbath was for Israel as a perpetual sign of creation rest.

2. "Remember to keep the Sabbath" is the only one of the ten commandments not repeated in the NT. The church worships of the Lord's Day, the first day of the week. Christ is our Sabbath rest as a new creation.

3. Sunday is not the Christian Sabbath. I have a handout that explains all this.

Tonight another incident that incites the self-righteous Pharisees, healing on the Sabbath Day.