

Lesson Notes: Mark 3

Introductory Questions

1. Choose and share four words to describe your Sabbath this past week.
2. With whom have you been in conflict this week? Why?
3. What place does religion have in the life of a Christian? Are you religious?
4. Crack this Code: PAJJ-->PhBM, TTh, JSJ
5. The disciples were appointed to follow Jesus ("be with Him"), to preach, and to cast out demons. They received mentoring from Jesus, then offered the ministries of words and works. What was Jesus' mentoring style? Who has played this role in your life? What are your ministries of words and works?
6. I can't imagine my family saying, "She must be out of her mind!". What did Jesus do that would cause such a reaction from Mary and Jesus' brothers? What were they so worried about that they wanted to "seize" him?

The Lord of the Sabbath

Jesus' summary statement in Mark 2:27,28

What is best on the Sabbath?

What place does religion have in the life of a Christian?

Theme of Opposition:

1. Withdrawal-->With the Crowds
2. Activity (both forces) The
3. Family: verses 20 & 21, then 31-35

Appointing the Twelve

Sent ones...authority...the group:

Jesus and Satan

The Unforgivable Sin: what do we really deserve anyway?

Jesus' Identity

Personal Questions

Is Jesus the Lord of your Sabbath? Is He the Lord and Love of your life? Can you articulate how a love relationship with Him is different from religion?

Who are the difficult people in your life? What are you learning from Jesus about being in conflict with other people?

Picture Jesus as your personal mentor. Do you spend enough time with Him to know His style, to know HIM? What has He taught you lately about pulling away to pray? About friends and Pharisees? About rest and religion? About being in conflict with others? About family dynamics?

Are you secure with where you stand with Jesus?

Discussion Group Questions

1. Tim Keller suggests that the purpose of the Sabbath is “replenishing the drained” and “repairing the broken.” How do Jesus’ words in Mark support what Tim says? Since the Sabbath is to “replenish” and “repair,” why then did the Pharisees have such a problem with the disciples eating and Jesus healing on the Sabbath?
2. In Chapter 4 of King’s Cross, Tim Keller compares Religion to Rest.

I like the way Larry Crabb puts it. Religion is $A+B=C$. If I do A and B (legalistic duties to idols or God or men), then I’ll get C. What is C? Worth before God (I’m righteous) and worth before others (I’m beautiful or worthy or simply “ok”).

Keller contrasts Religion to Rest. We can Rest because we were created in God’s image, justified and redeemed by the Cross, and recreated through the Spirit. Therefore, we are *already* righteous, beautiful, worthy, and ok. Since we already have C, A+B are simply expressions of our love towards Him who already accepts us. Our obedience doesn’t commend us to God, but is the means by which we worship and draw closer to Him.

That’s a mouthful.

Now: in what ways are you Religious? What worth do you seek? Have you found it? How does it feel to be enslaved to an equation ($A+B=C$)?

Keller says that Jesus IS our Sabbath. He IS our rest. In what ways do you experience this Rest? In what areas of your life have you ceased striving? How did that happen?