

Life and Ministry of Jesus Christ Lord of the Sabbath

Last time: the Witnesses of the Messiahship of Jesus Christ

This time...Jesus Christ is the Lord of the Sabbath

We will be in the Gospel of Matthew (written to the Jews), Chapter 12, verses 1-8

Parallel passages are in Mark 2:23-28 and Luke 6:1-5

After

- the unnamed feast in Jerusalem (John 5:1)
- the healing of the impotent man at the pool of Bethesda on the Sabbath
- all the contention with the Pharisees that ensued
- revelation from God about Him

Jesus returns to the Galilee, to Capernaum

The contention with the Pharisees and the revelation of God about Jesus continue

v1 Jesus went on the Sabbath day through the corn:

Luke 6:1

The 2nd Sabbath after the first...the passage of time from John 5?

I'm not exactly sure what that means, unless these Sabbaths are associated with the unnamed feast in John 5:1

Regardless, "on the Sabbath" is the salient point, given the contention between the Pharisees and Jesus Christ about that

Jesus and His disciples are walking on the Sabbath on a road that goes through a planted grain field

His disciples were hungry ("famished")

Note: John 4:32-34

So they plucked some grain, rubbed it in their hands to separate the grain from the stalk/chaff, and ate the grain

btw...they were neither trespassing nor stealing

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

The Law provided for the needs of God's people...
to obey the Law was to love God and love your neighbor

v2 the Pharisees...not lawful:

Who else is with Jesus and His disciples?

A contingent of note-taking Pharisees, who will be ever-present with Jesus,
now that they are determined to kill Him (John 5:18)

They accuse Jesus and His disciples of breaking the Law...
because they were “working” on the Sabbath:

- harvesting
- threshing
- reaping

According to the Mishna...

- the written record of the oral law
- a commentary on the Torah
- what the rabbis said that the rabbis said that the rabbis said about the Books of Moses

“he that reaps corn on the Sabbath to the quantity of a fig is guilty, and plucking corn is reaping.”

According to the commentary of rabbis, the disciples of Jesus are Lawbreakers

Q: Who is striving to kill Whom and for what cause? (envy)
Who is breaking the Law?!

Q: How far did Jesus Christ and His disciples walk that day...
with the Pharisees tagging along?

The rabbi's commentary on Joshua 3:3-4 said any walk on the Sabbath
longer than about half a mile was breaking the Law

The Pharisees make no mention of that on this Sabbath day...
Because the walk on which Jesus' disciples got hungry was
less than half a mile?
Because the Pharisees were as guilty so they hypocritically
“let it slide”?

v3-4 Have ye not read:

Jesus responds to the accusation by the Pharisees...
to correct and instruct them...
citing directly from the Word of God (1 Sam 21), not some commentary.

Jesus is referring to David during the period of his life when he was running from King Saul, who was trying to kill him (envy)
David and his men were hungry so he/they stopped at the tabernacle and asked for food
The only bread available was the showbread...the 12 loaves placed on the Table of Shewbread, which was to be eaten only by the priests
Seeing their need, The High Priest agreed to give it to them, on the condition that they were ceremonially pure

Using David, a man after God's own heart, as the legal precedent...
an "unlawful" incident for which neither David nor the High Priest received a correction/rebuke from the Lord...
Jesus declares His disciples innocent of wrong doing

In fact, in Luke 6:3 the phrase "Have ye not read so much as this" is a rebuke of the Pharisees, not His disciples:

Have you read the Word of God at all?
Do you not even understand this?
(You have no understanding of the Spirit of the Law, only your interpretation of the letter of the Law)

Let us notice: the answer to the question is in the Bible,
not in man's commentaries or traditions or philosophies

When the Word of God is the Final Authority, we are blessed with

- absolute, unchanging truth
- hope
- order
- freedom
- meaning to life

When man is the final authority, we are cursed with

- relative, arbitrary truth
- hopelessness
- confusion
- tyranny
- life has no meaning

Case in point: USA today vs pre-1963

v5 the priests in the temple profane the Sabbath:

Jesus amplifies the error of the Pharisees and the innocence of His disciples by citing a second example: the priests themselves that serve in the Temple

The priests worked on the Sabbath

- offering sacrifices (Num 28:9-10)
- performing circumcision (if the 8th day is a Sabbath)

but were never corrected for wrong doing by the Lord

So why would His disciples (priests of the order of Mel, as will be revealed later) be wrong?

At this point in the correction and instruction of the Pharisees, we need to look at Mark 2:27

Jesus explains the Sabbath to the religious professionals, the teachers of the Law.

The object of God's heart, His love, is man...not His Law

Out of His heart/nature of love God gave man the Sabbath, a day of

- fellowship with Him
- rest from the endless labors of this cursed world

God gave His people the Sabbath to bless them, not to burden them

The Jews have taken God's blessing and turned it into a burden

Such is the nature of religion and the wicked "re-orientation"
from God-centered living to self-centered living

Then Jesus says something radical...about Himself, a revelation of God to man

v6 one greater than the temple:

Jesus Christ has already established the fact that He had authority in the House of God, the Temple (John 2:13-16)

Now, being accused by religious men of breaking the Sabbath, Jesus declares that in this place (on a road running through a planted grain field near Capernaum in Galilee), is One Who is greater than the Temple

What is He saying?

Q: Who is greater than the house of God?

A: God, the owner/occupier of the house

Therefore, Jesus is declaring, again, that He is God

The Temple and all its contents were shadows of the Substance to come...
the Substance is right here!

His correction and instruction of the Pharisees continues

v7 I will have mercy and not sacrifice:

For the 2nd time (Matt 9, man sick with a palsy in Capernaum) Jesus instructs the legalistic and self-righteous Pharisees to learn this:

“I will have not only sacrifice, but also mercy.” (Hosea 6:6)

So says the God Who delights in mercy/compassion

Micah 7:18 Who *is* a God like unto Thee, that pardons iniquity, and passes by the transgression of the remnant of His heritage? He retains not His anger forever, because He delights *in* mercy.

Prov 11:17 The merciful man (a man after God’s own heart) doeth good to his own soul: but *he that is* cruel troubles his own flesh.

The Lesson to be learned: mercy...the nature of the Lawgiver

Now Jesus Christ concludes His lesson with the summation, the punch line

v8 Lord even of the Sabbath:

To correct and instruct the Pharisees, Jesus

- the Son of David, citing David
- the High Priest of the order of Mel, citing the High Priest during David’s day
- the Son of Man, from heaven (Dan 7:9-14)
- the Messiah/Christ

declares for the 2nd time in this one lesson that He is God – Lord of the Sabbath, the Lord who gave man the Sabbath (Gen 2:1-3) before He gave the Law

In response to the wicked accusation of the Pharisees, Jesus Christ declares Himself greater than the two greatest institutions in the OT

1. Temple
2. Sabbath

The Pharisees have much to write in their notebooks!

But the Pharisees will not receive His correction and instruction... because they did not believe (2 Tim 3:16-17)

ala Jer 2:13 idols then, self-righteous religion now,
vs loving relationship

Jer 2:17, 19, 21, 30

Jer 4:22

Jer 5:3

Jer 6:10

Jer 7:28

Written to a rebellious and backslidden Israel, the words of God in Jeremiah are words this nation needs to hear/receive...before judgment comes
USA must repent of driving the God of heaven and earth out of our society

Jesus is teaching us:

1. The Spirit of the Law vs the Letter of the Law
2. The nature of the Lawgiver – mercy/compassion for sinners
3. The heart of the Lawgiver – love for man and His desire to bless vs burden us
4. His Identity – God of heaven and earth
 - a. Greater than the Temple
 - b. Lord of the Sabbath
5. He knows our needs...and supplies them
 - a. Matt 6:31-34 (coming soon) and John 6:35
 - b. Forgiveness, our greatest need

Let us take to heart the Word of God, the revelation of God, all of which testifies of Jesus Christ (John 5:39)

1 Tim 1:5-11	the Law is for the unrighteous
<u>Rom 3:21-22</u>	faith of Jesus Christ
<u>Rom 10:4</u>	
<u>Col 2:3-10, 16-18</u>	

Let us 2 Peter 3:18 in the field where He has planted us!

Lets us repent and then rest/sabbath in the finished work on the Cross of the Author and Finisher of faith