

Mark 2:23-3:1-6

3 Practices For Enjoying The Holidays More Fully



Background/Context

- Verses focus; Jesus' teaching about observing and honoring Jewish holy day called "Sabbath"
- Lasted from sunset Friday to sunset Saturday
- Exodus 20; Ten Commandments, 4th commandment; set aside Sabbath as day of rest and worship of God
- Based on God's completion of Creation in Genesis; peoples' observance was witness to nations of world (Ex. 31:17)
- Jewish religious leaders corrupted Sabbath by enforcing hundreds of rules that dictated observance of day

Relationship With Jesus Instead Of Man Made Rituals

- (vv.23-24 & v.28) Jesus/Disciples plucking heads of grain and eating kernels (they hungry, had need)
- This permitted (Deut. 23:25); farmers not to harvest corner edges of fields
- This was left for poor, hungry, those in need
- Pharisees confronted Jesus; not because of getting grain but because it was done on holy day, Sabbath (no work done)
- Pharisees (613 daily laws that governed every aspect of life) believed rules equal to or greater than Scripture

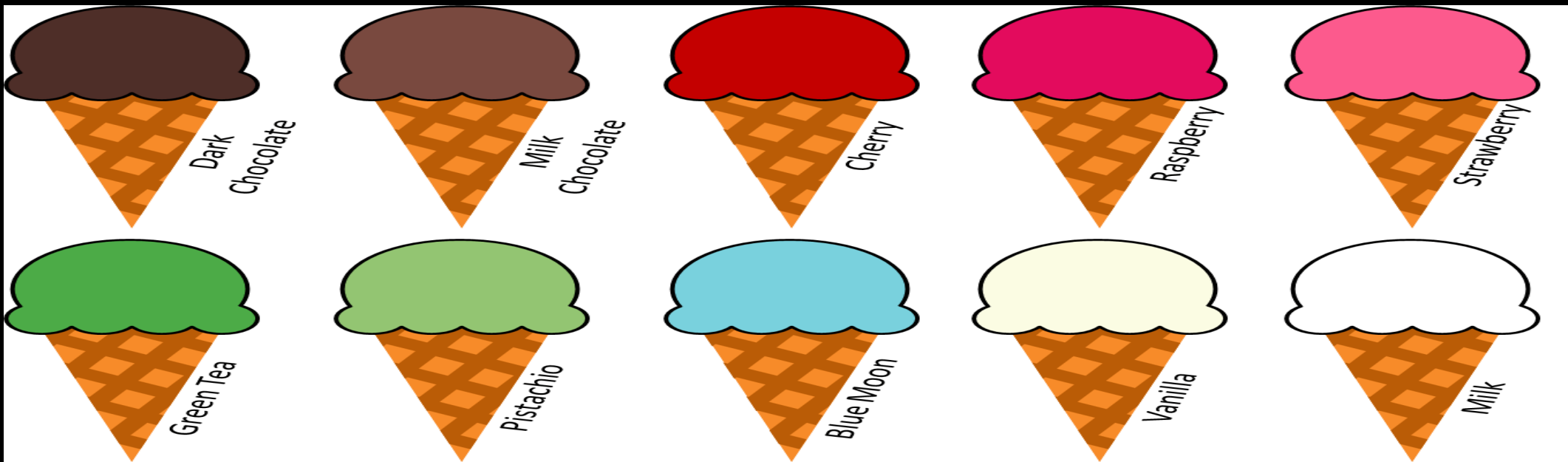
- Isaiah 29:13, “Therefore the Lord said: ‘Inasmuch as these people draw near with their mouths and honor Me with their lips, but have removed their hearts far from Me,...’”
- Rom. 3:20, “Therefore by the deeds of the law no flesh will be justified in His sight, for by the law is the knowledge of sin.”



God's Word Rather Than Man-Made Preferences

- (vv.24-27) Jesus responds; uses example of David before he king; running for his life from King Saul
- David and men in great need; emergency situation
- Go to town of Nob; wilderness Tabernacle had “showbread” in Holy Place; David and men asked for and ate bread only priests were allowed to eat
- Even though Law said bread was for priests, David allowed to eat due to emergency situation and fulfillment of God's will
- Pharisees probably shocked; they had preferences and misapplied Scripture

- Mark 7:7, “And in vain they worship Me, teaching as doctrines the commandments of men.”
- I Cors. 9:22, “...to the weak I became as weak, that I might win the weak. I have become all things to all men, that I might by all means save some.”



Restoration Rather Than Critical Man-Made Expectations

- (3:1-6) Jesus believed in going to church! Went to synagogue
- Pharisees looking to accuse and condemn, not find truth
- In congregation, man with withered hand (person in this condition looked at as being cursed by God because of sin; would have been shunned)
- Pharisees had rule; couldn't apply any type of medicine to person on Sabbath unless it life or death; had to wait until Sabbath over
- Jesus called man to front; asked questions about good/evil and saving life or killing
- If Pharisees said "lawful", Jesus heal and their "rule" would have been broken
- If Pharisees said "unlawful", they would condone evil and killing

- Col. 3:17, “And whatever you do in word and deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through Him.”
- Matt. 5:17, “Do not think that I came to destroy the Law or the Prophets. I did not come to destroy but to fulfill.”

