

The Gospel of Mark

Not Prison But Protection

Mark 2:23-3:6

Opener: What stood out to you or got you thinking from the message and the passage?

Read Mark 2:23-27

1. Read Deuteronomy 5:12 for the command of God concerning the Sabbath. What objection do the Pharisees have to how Jesus and his disciples are observing the Sabbath?
2. You can read the story about David and the consecrated bread in 2 Samuel 21:1-6. If God suspends his command that only priests eat the consecrated bread, what does this teach us about the rules that God has given to us?
3. What is your understanding of what Jesus declares when he says, “The Sabbath was made for man, not man for the Sabbath” (v. 27)? How does this shape your understanding of the intent behind the Sabbath command?
4. Do you keep a Sabbath in your weekly schedule? Why or why not? What changes would you need to make to do so?
5. What is Jesus declaring about himself when he says that the “Son of Man is Lord even of the Sabbath?”

Read Mark 3:1-6

6. This is one of the rare times when we see Jesus visibly angered and distressed. What has him so distressed?
7. Jesus gives some parameters for understanding what can be done on the Sabbath that requires effort and “work” but is not wrong to do. What does this teach you about the Sabbath? What does this teach you about following all of God’s commands?
8. How do you feel led to respond after reflecting on this passage?