

The Sabbath & the Heart of God

Mark 2:23—3:6



An Outline

- I. The Sabbath: room for Necessity (2:23-28)
- II. The Sabbath: room for Mercy (3:1-6)
- Theme:
 - **2:28** – the Son of Man is Lord even of the Sabbath."

I. The Sabbath: room for Necessity (2:23-28)

- **A. The Question That Isn't a Question (23-24)**
- **B. The Answer That Can't be Answered (25-28)**
 - From biblical history (25-26; Matt. 12:3-4; Luke 6:3-4)
 - From the Mosaic Law (Matt. 12:5)
 - From the Prophets (Matt. 12:7)
 - From the purpose of the Sabbath (2:27)
 - From His own personal authority (28; Matt. 12:8; Luke 6:5)

II. The Sabbath: Room for Mercy (3:1-6)



A. A Caring Heart vs. A Sinister Plot (1-2)

- **1a** – He entered again into a synagogue.
 - Luke adds: "On another Sabbath He entered the synagogue and was teaching."
 - Likely, the synagogue in Capernaum
- **1b** – and a man was there whose hand was withered.
 - Luke, the doctor, adds: "right hand."

The Withered Hand

- *Withered* implies:
 - Unusable – perhaps paralysis
 - Perhaps misshapen or deformed
 - Perhaps not a congenital condition
 - Cause: Polio? A stroke? An accident?

A. A Caring Heart vs. A Sinister Plot (1-2)

- **2a** – They were watching Him to see if He would heal him on the Sabbath.
- **2b** – so that they might accuse Him.
 - evidence for a formal charge against Jesus for violating the Sabbath



B. A Biblical Defense vs. A Stubborn Silence (3-4)

- Matt. 12:10 – And a man was *there* whose hand was withered. And they questioned Jesus, asking, "Is it lawful to heal on the Sabbath?"-- so that they might accuse Him.
- **3** – He said to the man with the withered hand, "Get up and come forward!"
- Matt. 12:11-12 - And He said to them, "What man is there among you who has a sheep, and if it falls into a pit on the Sabbath, will he not take hold of it and lift it out? 12 "How much more valuable then is a man than a sheep! So then, it is lawful to do good on the Sabbath."

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A. A Biblical Defense vs. A Stubborn Silence (3-4)

- **4a** – And He said to them, "Is it lawful to do good or to do harm on the Sabbath, to save a life or to kill?"
 - Two distinct questions.
 - 1) What He should do regarding the man with the withered hand.
 - "Is it lawful to do good or to do harm on the Sabbath?"
 - If I have the power to help someone else, not to do so is sin.
 - Pr. 3:27 - Do not withhold good from those to whom it is due, when it is in your power to do it.
 - Cf. Luke 10 – story of the Good Samaritan.
 - Gal. 6:10 – So then, while we have opportunity, let us do good to all people, and especially to those who are of the household of the faith.
 - Cf. Luke 13:14 – the synagogue official, indignant because Jesus had healed on the Sabbath, began saying to the crowd in response, "There are six days in which work should be done; so come during them and get healed, and not on the Sabbath day." 20

A. A Biblical Defense vs. A Stubborn Silence (3-4)

- **4a** – And He said to them, "Is it lawful to do good or to do harm on the Sabbath, to save a life or to kill?"
 - Two distinct questions.
 - 1) What He should do regarding the man with the withered hand.
 - "Is it lawful to do good or to do harm on the Sabbath?"
 - "Is it lawful...on the Sabbath, to save a life or to kill?"
 - This was a call to repentance.
 - 2) What they are going to do.
 - "Is it lawful...on the Sabbath, to save a life or to kill?"
- **4b** – But they kept silent.

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C. The Lord's Heart vs. The Sinner's Heart (5-6)

- **The Lord's Heart – 5**
 - 1. Anger & Grief at Sin
 - **5a** – After looking around at them with anger, grieved at their hardness of heart.
 - Luke 6:10 - After looking around at them all.
 - with anger
 - *orge*
 - a slow burning anger
 - Grieved = to feel sorrow or grief together; to feel sorry for.
 - "He was grieved at the hardness of their heart."
 - Hard-hearted: to resist the will and purpose of God; to be unteachable and proud.
 - 2. Compassion for the Hurting
 - **5b** – He said to the man, "Stretch out your hand."
 - 3. Doing Good & Saving a Life on the Sabbath
 - **5c** – And he stretched it out, and his hand was restored. 21

C. The Lord's Heart vs. The Sinner's Heart (5-6)

- **The Sinner's Heart – 6**
 - 1. Anger at God
 - Luke 6:11 – But they themselves were filled with rage, and discussed together what they might do to Jesus.
 - Greek, *anoia*...
 - "a state of such extreme anger as to suggest an incapacity to use one's mind - 'extreme fury, great rage.'"
 - Cf. Rom. 1:21 - For even though they knew God, they did not honor Him as God or give thanks, but they became futile in their speculations, and their foolish heart was darkened.
 - Rom. 1:31 – "haters of God."
 - Rev. 16:9, 11, 21

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C. The Lord's Heart vs. The Sinner's Heart (5-6)

- **The Sinner's Heart – 6**
 - 1. Anger at God
 - 2. Concern Only for Oneself
 - Cf. Matt. 23:4 - "They tie up heavy burdens and lay them on men's shoulders, but they themselves are unwilling to move them with so *much* as a finger."
 - Titus 3:3 - For we also once were foolish ourselves, disobedient, deceived, enslaved to various lusts and pleasures, spending our life in malice and envy, hateful, hating one another.
 - 3. Doing Evil & Plotting to Take a Life on the Sabbath
 - 6 - The Pharisees went out and immediately *began* conspiring with the Herodians against Him, *so* how they might destroy Him.
 - Luke explains that as soon as they left the building they "discussed together what they might do to Jesus."
 - And soon they also made contact with a group called the *Herodians*.

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Herodians

- Supporters of Herod Antipas, the son of Herod the Great
- The family of Herod controlled the selection of High Priests before 6 AD and again after 37 AD.
- And most of their appointments were in one family: the house of Boethus.
- During the Romans (7 AD – 37 AD), the Sadducees were appointed as High Priests.
- Possible: Herodians were Boethusians

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The Pharisees Hatred of Jesus

- Religious reason: They had created a false religious system and Jesus was showing it for its moral bankruptcy.
- Personal reason: envy
 - He undermined their authority with the people.
 - Matt. 27:18; Mark 15:10; John 11:48; 12:19



The Herodians' Hatred of Jesus

- Political reason: wanted to maintain the status quo with a desire to ultimately see self-rule return to Israel.
- Personal reason: they wanted to preserve their money, power, and luxurious lives.



The Heart of God

- Shown...
 - 1) In creating the Sabbath for man (2:27)
 - 2) In concern for the daily needs and regular issues of man's life.
 - Including even food to eat (2:23-28)
 - Healing of the body illnesses (3:1-6)
 - 3) In concern for those affected by the results of the fall.
 - A) Physical results – sickness
 - B) Spiritual results – sin
 - (1) Anger at their sin
 - (2) Grieved

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