

Recap of 5/7/23 message by Pastor Joe (Mark 3:1-6):

1. *The thing which ties the incidents of Mark 2:23-28 and 3:1-6 together is controversy with the religious leaders over the Sabbath. The bottom line is that Jesus was claiming authority over the Sabbath, a cherished Jewish institution.*
2. *Sabbath means “rest,” “cessation from exertion.”*
3. *One author summarizes Jesus’ arguments this way:*
 - a) *Sabbath law was not merely one of rest, but of rest for worship (and service to the Lord which was worship). It could be broken for works of necessity.*
 - b) *On the example of Deuteronomy 28:9-10, the priests were permitted to work and serve on the Sabbath. (Matthew 12:5)*
 - c) *Hosea 6:6 – “God desires kindness and good will in men rather than punctilious observance of traditional rules.” The spirit and not the letter was important. (Matthew 12:7)*
 - d) *Appeal to the original purpose of the Sabbath. It wasn’t to be a taskmaster over men. Not meant to create a burden but to provide refreshment.*
 - e) *The authority of Messiah Himself. Jesus has all authority, including over the Sabbath itself. (Mark 2:28; Matthew 12:8; Luke 6:5.*
4. *Should we keep the Sabbath today?*
 - a) *It’s not commanded in the New Testament. It’s the only one of the 10 Commandments not repeated in the New Testament.*
 - b) *According to romans 14:5-6; Galatians 4:8-11; & Colossians 2:13-17 There is no special day today.*
5. *Application:*
 - a) *We must ask ourselves: “Do we measure spirituality by some list of dos and don’ts? Or do we take Jesus as our model, and concentrate not on our acts of piety, but on a spontaneous response to the needs of others for Jesus’ sake. [What] made the Pharisees so furious? Their entire claim to spiritual superiority was based on rigorous observation of manmade rules.... Christ dared to set such things aside as irrelevant.” (Richards)*
 - b) *“Service to God often brings harsh conflicts.” With apostate religious leaders, with those who deny Biblical authority and Biblical truth. (Hullinger)*