



“One Sabbath Jesus was going through the grainfields, and as his disciples walked along, they began to pick some heads of grain. The Pharisees said to him, “Look, why are they doing what is unlawful on the Sabbath?” He answered, “Have you never read what David did when he and his companions were hungry and in need? In the days of Abiathar the high priest, he entered the house of God and ate the consecrated bread, which is lawful only for priests to eat. And he also gave some to his companions.” Then he said to them, “The Sabbath was made for man, not man for the Sabbath. So the Son of Man is Lord even of the Sabbath.” (Mark 2:23-28 - NIV)

Prayer: O God, You rule over all things in wisdom and kindness. Take away everything that may be harmful and give me whatever is good; through Your Son, Jesus Christ my Lord, Who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, One God, now and forever. AMEN



Order of Worship – The Common Service Without L.S. – pg. 15

- Greetings by the Pastor

- Invocation (Liturgy pg. 15)

Opening Hymn **C.W. 239**

- Confession of Sins

- Absolution

- Prayer and Praise (pg. 16)

- Prayer of The Day (pg. 17)

First Lesson – Deuteronomy 5:12-15 – The 3rd Commandment

PSALM OF THE DAY Psalm 126 (Lit. pg. 113 – Sung by Congregation)

Second Lesson– II Corinthians 4:1-12 – Jars of Clay

Gospel Lesson– Mark 2:23-28 – Jesus Is Lord of The Sabbath

The Apostle’s Creed – (Pg. 19)

Sermon Hymn: **C.W. 241**

Sermon Text: Mark 2:23-28

Sermon Theme: Jesus Is Lord of The Sabbath

"Create in Me" – (pg. 20)

Offering (The plates will not be passed but are at the entrance doors)

Offering Prayer

Prayer of The Church

Lord’s Prayer (Traditional Version)

Hymn **C.W. 242**

Collect / Prayer (pg. 25)

Benediction

Closing Hymn **C.W. 319**

SERMON TEXT: Mark 2:23-28 (See also Matthew 12:1-14; Luke 6:1-11)

Vs. 23 - One Sabbath Jesus was going through the grain fields, and as his disciples walked along, they began to pick some heads of grain.

Vs. 24 - The Pharisees said to him, “Look, why are they doing what is unlawful on the Sabbath?”

Vs. 25 - He answered, “Have you never read what David did when he and his companions were hungry and in need?

Vs. 26 - In the days of Abiathar the high priest, he entered the house of God and ate the consecrated bread, which is lawful only for priests to eat. And he also gave some to his companions.”

Vs. 27 - Then he said to them, “The Sabbath was made for man, not man for the Sabbath.

Vs. 28 - So the Son of Man is Lord even of the Sabbath.”

GREETING: I keep asking that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the glorious Father, may give you the Spirit of wisdom and revelation, so that you may know Him better.

Can you remember the 3rd Commandment?

In Exodus 20:1-21 – we are given the account of when the Lord God gave Moses the 10 Commandments.

(See also Dt. 5:1-22; How do we know it is 10 Commandments? See Ex. 34:28; Dt. 4:13; Dt. 10:4)

The 3rd Commandment being: *Remember the Sabbath - השַׁבָּת - σαββασιον - Day by keeping it holy.*

Sabbath = Rest. Rest for the body and most important = Rest for the soul – to worship God and study His Word.

What Does This Mean? “*We should fear and love God that we do not despise preaching and His Word, but hold it sacred and gladly hear and learn it.*”

{Review of the 10 Commandments = 1st No other God's; 2nd Do not take God's name in vain; 3rd = Sabbath; 4th = Honor Parents; 5th = Do not kill / murder; 6th Do not commit adultery; 7th = Do not steal; 8th = Do not bear false witness; 9th & 10th = Do not Covet.}

The importance of the Sabbath Day was of course already emphasized by God at Creation.

After God created all things in 6 – 24 hour days, the Lord God Rested on the 7th Day and made it *holy*.

God did not rest because HE was tired, rather God *set apart* the 7th day for a special purpose for mankind to rest, rest for body and soul.

God knows that as human beings we are flesh and blood and that we need rest.

In the text for today, we see that the Pharisees are accusing the disciples of sinning against the 3rd Commandment. The Pharisees are accusing the disciples of working.

As Jesus and the disciples are walking on a path through a grain field, the disciples are plucking some kernels of grain to eat. The Pharisees accused the disciples of harvesting grain. To harvest grain was considered work, however as we learn in Dt. 23:25, plucking is not work:

Dt. 23:25 –NIV – “*If you enter your neighbor's grain field, you may pick kernels with your hands, but you must not put a sickle to his standing grain.*”

And so, the Pharisees were just looking for a reason to put Jesus and His disciples on the defensive.

Jesus however points out from an Old Testament Example, the account of David, when he was fleeing from an angry King Saul, David went to the House of the Lord, and the High Priest gave the consecrated bread to David and his men in time of need.

Vs. 25 - He answered, “Have you never read what David did when he and his companions were hungry and in need? Vs. 26 - In the days of Abiathar the high priest, he entered the house of God and ate the consecrated bread, which is lawful only for priests to eat. And he also gave some to his companions.”

In the Gospel of Matthew, we have more information that the Priests were innocent in the midst of wrong.

In the Gospel of **Matthew 12:3-8** – (NIV) Jesus says: “Haven’t you read what David did when he and his companions were hungry? **4** He entered the house of God, and he and his companions ate the consecrated bread—which was not lawful for them to do, but only for the priests. **5** Or haven’t you read in the Law that on the Sabbath the priests in the temple desecrate the day and yet are innocent? **6** I tell you that one greater than the temple is here. **7** If you had known what these words mean, ‘I desire mercy, not sacrifice,’ you would not have condemned the innocent. **8** For the Son of Man is Lord of the Sabbath.”

The Pharisees were looking for some fault in the disciples and Jesus, to which the Lord Jesus points out their error.

Even in our own lives, sometimes other people try to find fault with Christians.

One time I remember that in Zambia, a gentleman told me that I was going to hell because I worshiped God on Sunday. He firmly believed that the only day to worship God was Saturday. He thought that Sabbath meant Saturday. Sabbath of course means rest, it does not mean Saturday.

Since I knew what was behind this gentleman’s accusation, I was not concerned for my soul.

I know that I have heaven because of Jesus kept the entire law perfectly in my place, and that Jesus took all my sin upon Himself on the cross of Calvary, and that Jesus has demonstrated His victory over death and the devil by His Glorious resurrection on Easter Sunday.

It is truly important to be in the Word of God, so that we are not led to fear from false religious teachings and ideas.

There is another extreme concerning regular Worship of course with other believers when I approach those delinquents / inactive members of the congregation.

Someone who perhaps has not been to worship in years, when they are asked why they have not been in worship for such a long time, they are quick to point out, that:

“You do not have to go to church to be in heaven!”

And this is true.

We do not *have* to go to church to be in heaven.

Besides, how many times would ever be enough times to attend worship to go to heaven?

However, we should rather be asking: “Why not go to church to gather together with fellow believers to thank God for all the blessing HE has given us and continues to give us, and the greatest gift of eternal life in heaven because of Jesus our Risen Savior? Why not thank God in joint public worship?”

As Jesus defended the disciples and instructed the Pharisees to lead them to repentance He stated.

Vs. 27 - Then He said to them, The Sabbath was made for man, not man for the Sabbath.

Vs. 28 – So the Son of Man is Lord even of the Sabbath.

The Pharisees were putting regulations ahead of the law of love.

The disciples were hungry, and they needed to eat.

The Sabbath Day is a great opportunity that God has given Mankind to have rest for our Body and most important, rest for our soul, as we hear the Word of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Jesus is our only True Sabbath rest.

Jesus says:

Matthew 11:28-30 – “Come to me all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. 29 – Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For My yoke is easy and My burden is light.

AMEN

THEME: Jesus Is Lord Of The Sabbath!