

WHO DO YOU SAY HE IS?



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Mark 2:23–3:6

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23 One Sabbath he was going through the grainfields, and as they made their way, his disciples began to pluck heads of grain. **24** And the Pharisees were saying to him, “Look, why are they doing what is not lawful on the Sabbath?” **25** And he said to them, “Have you never read what David did, when he was in need and was hungry, he and those who were with him: **26** how he entered the house of God, in the time of Abiathar the high priest, and ate the bread of the Presence, which it is not lawful for any but the priests to eat, and also gave it to those who were with him?” **27** And he said to them, “The Sabbath was made for man, not man for the Sabbath. **28** So the Son of Man is lord even of the Sabbath.”

3 Again he entered the synagogue, and a man was there with a withered hand. **2** And they watched Jesus, to see whether he would heal him on the Sabbath, so that they might accuse him. **3** And he said to the man with the withered hand, “Come here.” **4** And he said to them, “Is it lawful on the Sabbath to do good or to do harm, to save life or to kill?” But they were silent. **5** And he looked around at them with anger, grieved at their hardness of heart, and said to the man, “Stretch out your hand.” He stretched it out, and his hand was restored. **6** The Pharisees went out and immediately held counsel with the Herodians against him, how to destroy him.

Jesus can rightly interpret the Sabbath

- “So the Son of Man is Lord of even the Sabbath” (v. 28).
- What is the Sabbath?
 - “So God blessed the seventh day and made it holy, because on it God rested from all his work that he had done in creation” (Genesis 2:3).
 - “8 Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy. 9 Six days you shall labor, and do all your work, 10 but the seventh day is a Sabbath to the Lord your God. On it you shall not do any work, you, or your son, or your daughter, your male servant, or your female servant, or your livestock, or the sojourner who is within your gates. 11 For in six days the Lord made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that is in them, and rested on the seventh day. Therefore the Lord blessed the Sabbath day and made it holy” (Exodus 20:8–11).
- Who is Jesus?
 - Son of Man
 - Why does Jesus compare himself to King David?
- Because He is lord of the Sabbath

Jesus can rightly apply the Sabbath

- “The Sabbath was made for man, not man for the Sabbath” (2:27).
- “Is it lawful on the Sabbath to do good or to do harm, to save life or to kill?” (3:4).
- What is the point of the Sabbath?
 - Jesus doesn’t dismiss the Sabbath; he just believes the Pharisees have got it wrong.
 - “The Sabbath is God’s blessing, not a cramping and life-denying constraint, and not a rigid set of rules to be obeyed” (John Nolland, “Sabbath,” 821).
 - The Sabbath was “not meant to be a burden but was given to people for their good” (Peter Orr, *The Beginning of the Gospel*, 128).
 - Jesus’ point: The Sabbath was a gift to humanity.
- Because the Sabbath is for His Kingdom
 - “The Sabbath is about restoring the diminished. It’s about replenishing the drained. It’s about repairing the broken” (Tim Keller, *Jesus the King*, 40–41).
 - “The Spirit of the Lord God is upon me, because the Lord has anointed me to bring good news to the poor; he has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and the opening of the prison to those who are bound; 2 to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor” (Isaiah 61:1–2a).

How will you respond to Jesus?

- “And he said to them, “Is it lawful on the Sabbath to do good or to do harm, to save life or to kill?” But they were silent” (Mark 3:4).

How will you respond to people?

- Don’t use God to ignore or mistreat people!

As the Lord, Jesus rightly interprets and applies the good intention of the Sabbath.