

WHO DO YOU SAY HE IS?



Who Do You Say He Is?
Mark 2:23–3:6

"Who do you say that I am?" This is the question that Jesus asked his disciple, Peter? And this is the question people asked throughout Jesus' earthly life. From his teachings to his healings and to the miracles he performed, people wrestled with the identity of Jesus. The Gospel of Mark was written to answer just this question—Who do you say Jesus is? And this question is as relevant today as it was 2,000 years ago when Jesus asked it of Peter? In our journey through the Gospel of Mark we will study the life, ministry, death, and resurrection of Jesus and ask ourselves, "Who do you say he is?"

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

- As you reflect on the message, what stood out to you? What is something you are still thinking about?
- What is something from the message that challenged you? How are you wrestling with that challenge?
- What question(s) do you have from the message?
- What is at least one practical takeaway from the message?

Mark 2:23–3:6

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.

- In order to understand the controversy surrounding this passage, you have to understand the significance of the Sabbath in Jewish law and life. What is the Sabbath and why is it so important? Turn to Genesis 2:3 and Exodus 20:8–11 for context.
- What did Jesus and his disciples do in this story that upset the Pharisees?
- Jesus makes two significant statements regarding the Sabbath. One of those statements is “the Son of Man is lord even of the Sabbath.” What does this mean? Remember why Jesus called himself the Son of Man—see Daniel 7:13–14.
- What does it mean for our understanding of Jesus’ identity that he can interpret the Sabbath?
- The other statement Jesus makes is “The Sabbath was made for man, not man for the Sabbath.” What does Jesus mean by this?
- What had the Pharisees turned the Sabbath into? What did Jesus say was the point of the Sabbath?
- How is Jesus’ understanding of the Sabbath connected to Genesis 2:3 and Exodus 20:8–11?
- How should the Sabbath be a microcosm of Jesus’ coming Kingdom?

- Do you practice the Sabbath on a regular basis? If so, what does it look like? How does your practice of the Sabbath permit Jesus to be the Lord of your Sabbath?
- How does your practice of the Sabbath extend the Kingdom of God into your sphere of influence?
- As we wrap up our first portion of the Gospel of Mark, how are you thinking about Jesus and/or his Kingdom differently?