

March 26th, 2023 – Red Letters: Gospel of Mark (part 11)

This guide is designed to give helpful hints in preparing you for your group discussion.

Quick Review

Look back from your sermon notes – Was there anything that particularly challenged you from this sermon? Anything you didn't understand, agree with or connect with?

Introduction

Can you think of a time where you were trying to either get away on vacation, or just simply taking a break from work and things kept coming up that would not allow you to? Whether it was your employer bothering you or even things to had nothing to do with your job that prevented you from resting.

Digging In

Question 1: Read Mark 2:23-24. The disciples and Jesus were walking through grainfields and picking grain from the fields. The Pharisees were taking notice and had claimed what the disciples and Jesus were doing something against God's law! But Jesus, being fully God, knew the Old Testament law perfectly, and knew that they were not breaking God's law, but the Pharisees man made rules (**Deuteronomy 23:25**). Has there ever been a time in your life where you followed man made traditions more closely than God's word? How do you prevent yourself from getting so focused on man-made traditions, rather what God desires for you?

Question 2: Read Mark 2:25-28. Jesus shows the deeper understanding of Sabbath, even showing from the Old Testament how this is true! Jesus references from **1 Samuel 21:1-6** about King David and the High Priest Abiathar. Jesus knew the Old Testament better than any Pharisee. Why do you think Jesus says that then "Sabbath was made for man, not man for the Sabbath?" How does this apply to your life and how to do you practice Sabbath? Is this something you give application to in your life?

Question 3: Read Mark 3:1-4. Another instance happens where the Pharisees try to trap Jesus! There is a man with a withered hand, and Jesus asks if it is lawful for good things to happen, even on the Sabbath. The Gospel of Mark even emphasizes that the Pharisees were silent. The silence shows the hardness of heart of Jesus' opponents. Is it possible that in your life you have missed opportunities to "do good" to practice a man-made tradition? What could be a modern-day example of this? What is Jesus' main point?

Question 4: Read Mark 3:1-6. This section of Mark 3 really shows Jesus' divinity and authority as the Son of Man. Jesus can know our thoughts (v. 5), and teach God's Word in a way that brings life (v.4)

Reflect of these verses and how God knows your every thought: Write down how this changes your perspective about the way God knows you and still wants a relationship with you!

- Psalm 139:23-24
- 1 Kings 8:39
- 1 Samuel 16:7
- Psalm 7:9
- Psalm 19:14

Taking it Home

Reflect on how you rest. In what practical ways do you intentionally take time to have Sabbath?

Praise / Prayer Requests

Pray for your group with these things in mind:

Adoration – How can I praise God for what this teaches me?

Confession – What sin can I confess because of what this teaches me?

Thanksgiving – How can I thank God for what Jesus has done?

Supplication – What do I need to ask of God in order to grow in light of this?