

Into the Life of Jesus

A study in the gospel of Mark

Study #8

Review of last week: Mark 2:18-22

- This last week we considered Jesus, Fasting and New Wine. As we think back to our study and Sunday's teaching, what stands out to us – was there something that hit home for us, challenged us, encouraged us, got us thinking or praying? Explain.
- This week's text invites us to consider the role of the Sabbath in our lives. What role does the Sabbath play in your life?

This week: Digging into Mark 2:23-3:6

Take a moment to pray and ask God to open your heart to hear His Word. And then read the passage aloud a few times – and possibly in a few different translations.

- Share any initial observations or questions that emerge from or about the text.
- Jesus mentions a story in the life of David. Go back and read it – it's found in 1 Samuel 21:1-6. Why do you think Jesus mentioned this story?
- In Mark 2:27, Jesus says, "The Sabbath was made for man, not man for the Sabbath. So the Son of Man is Lord even of the Sabbath."
 - How does Jesus being Lord over the Sabbath need to impact how we approach the Sabbath?

Implications and Applications

- Jesus and the Pharisees have a very different take on the Sabbath command. What do these different perspectives say about their respective perspectives about God?
 - How do we view the Sabbath and what does this say about our vision of God?
- Read Mark 3:1-6 once more. How does this account need to speak into our vision and practice of the Sabbath?
- As we learned in our study of Exodus last year, all of the 10 Commandments were intended not as restrictions on the life of the Israelites, but liberating gifts to help the people of God continue to life free and not return to slavery.
 - In what ways might God want to liberate you from slavery through the gift the Sabbath?
 - In what ways might God want to liberate others from slavery through your practice of the Sabbath?

Pray: Offer to Jesus – the Lord of the Sabbath – your sabbath questions and longings, asking Him to lead into His liberating ways – for you and for all.