

FOLLOWING JESUS

ARE YOU TIRED? COME TO JESUS

MARK 2:23-3:6

SERMON DISCUSSION QUESTIONS – NOVEMBER 7, 2021

SCRIPTURE READING

Mark 2:23-3:6

A Question About Fasting

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."

3:1 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.

CONFESSION OF FAITH

Excerpt from the Ligonier Statement on Christology

For us, [Christ] kept the Law, atoned for sin, and satisfied God's wrath. He took our filthy rags and gave us His righteous robe.

He is our Prophet, Priest, and King, building His church, interceding for us, and reigning over all things. Jesus Christ is Lord; we praise His holy Name forever. Amen.

PRAYER

The New City Catechism Devotional, 120

Creation's Redeemer, the world will not always be as it is now, fallen and groaning for the fullness of your kingdom. Thank you that, ultimately, you will make all things new. We rejoice that your redemption extends to the world you have made. Amen.

SERMON RECAP

Jesus is Lord of the Sabbath. It was made for Him. And we were made for rest in Him. *Rest is found in Jesus alone.*

SERMON MAIN POINTS

- *Rest is not found in getting everything right in your life.*
- Rest is found in entrusting everything in your life to Jesus as Lord.
- As you live...
 - Rest in Jesus' lordship over everything.
 - Rest in Jesus' love for you.

- Rest in Jesus' life in you.

NOTES ON MARK 2:23-3:6

“Jesus is not only pitted against the kingdom of Satan [1:12-13] ... he is also set in opposition to religious leaders and their traditions, which impair rather than improve human lives. Jesus has healed and delivered a variety of victims so far in the narrative and will continue to do so ... The assortment of disorders depicts ‘a world in great need, a world under the shadow of death. They also show that the Jewish religious religion was completely unable to help them in their need. In fact, it probably even made their situation worse by excluding them as unclean and so making God seem even further away. By coming to Jesus, this group shows the reader that faith means turning to Jesus Christ in the midst of real physical needs in the world under the shadow of death, and being prepared to follow him into the kingdom’. The failure of the religious system and its interpreters is illustrated in the controversy scenes that follow. Jesus flouts and thereby corrects traditional expectations of proper behavior defined by a particular group of religious watchdogs.” —David Garland, *A Theology of Mark's Gospel*, 110.

“Who can forgive sins but God alone?” (2:7)	“The Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins.” (2:10)
“Why does he eat with tax collectors and sinners?” (2:16)	“I have not come to call the righteous, but sinners.” (2:19)
“How is it that John’s disciples and the disciples of the Pharisees are fasting, but yours are not?” (2:18)	“How can the guests of the bridegroom fast while he is with them? They cannot, so long as they have him with them.” (2:19)
“Why are you doing what is unlawful on the Sabbath?” (2:24)	“The Son of Man is Lord even of the Sabbath.” (2:28)

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- What does Jesus claim in His interactions with the Pharisees?
- What are some ways that religious practice today may misalign with God’s original purposes?
- Mark 3:6 tells us that after these two episodes the Pharisees plotted to have Jesus killed. Why were they so threatened by Jesus?

APPLICATION QUESTIONS

- How do Jesus’ claims to authority challenge our own ways of thinking?
- In what ways can we honor Jesus, the Lord of the Sabbath, by submitting to our need for physical, spiritual, or emotional rest?