

Sermon Discussion Questions

Speaker: Dr. Stephen Burrell

Topic: Jesus is Lord of the Sabbath

Scriptures: Mark 2:18-3:6

Opening: Open your time in prayer by thanking God for His wisdom and goodness, asking Him to help you trust His ways, and praying for hearts that delight in obedience rather than merely complying with rules.

Give Background & Context:

As Jesus' ministry grows, so does His conflict with the religious leaders. Through a series of conversations about fasting and the Sabbath, Jesus challenges their understanding of God's law and reveals its true purpose. These passages show that God's commands are meant for our good and that Jesus has the authority to define what true obedience looks like.

- Read Mark 2:18-22
 - Why do you think people were concerned that Jesus' disciples were not fasting like other religious groups?
 - Jesus compares His presence to a wedding celebration. What does that image communicate about who He is and what He came to do?
 - How do the illustrations of the new patch and new wineskins help explain Jesus' response about fasting?
 - What are some ways people can be tempted to fit Jesus into their existing expectations instead of allowing Him to reshape them?
- Read Mark 2:23-28
 - Why were the Pharisees upset with the disciples, and how does Jesus challenge their understanding of the Sabbath?
 - What does Jesus' example from David teach about the relationship between God's law and human need?
 - Jesus says, "The Sabbath was made for man, not man for the Sabbath." What does that reveal about God's heart behind His commands?
 - Why is Jesus' statement that He is "Lord even of the Sabbath" such a significant claim?
- Read Mark 3:1-6
 - As this scene unfolds, what contrast do you see between Jesus and the Pharisees?
 - Why do you think the religious leaders were more concerned about their rules than the man's condition?
 - Jesus uses the Sabbath as an opportunity to do good. What does that teach about God's purpose for obedience?
 - How can religious habits or personal preferences sometimes keep people from seeing what God is doing?
- Sermon Reflection Questions
 - Many people view God's commands as restrictive or burdensome. Why do you think that is such a common perception?
 - The Pharisees were passionate about keeping rules but missed God's heart. What are some warning signs that someone is becoming more focused on rules than relationships?
 - Jesus repeatedly teaches that God's commands are meant to bring life and flourishing. How have you experienced obedience leading to blessing, even when it was difficult?
 - The religious leaders saw Jesus' miracle but remained resistant to Him. What can keep people from recognizing and responding to what God is doing right in front of them?