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| 1  Mark 2:23-3:6  Son of God, Our Rest  INTRO:  Telephone game I used to play  Lesson from the game: Don’t stray away from the original  -Like game, Pharisees are playing a deadly game  -They strayed away from the source  -It had eternal ramifications and affected people’s  souls  As we continue in V. 23 we come to #4 of 5 confrontations with Pharisees throughout Mark 2:23-3:6  -Disciples are walking, they get hungry and start eating, but Pharisees criticize | 2  Jesus responds with sharp rebuke vv. 25-26  -If high priest made exception for David and his men to feed only what the high priest could eat, how much more can Jesus allow his men to eat on Sabbath?  -Jesus says He is “Lord of the Sabbath”=outrage for Pharisees, claimed He is equal with God and was God  -We see the blindness of the Pharisees in not seeing true intent of Sabbath to be a blessing and not a burden  -Sabbath day patterned after creation in Genesis, God worked 6 days and rested the seventh  -Genesis 2:3 + Exodus 20:11 “God blessed and hallowed”=what does they mean?  When you hallow God you are blessed giving your attention to him than if you were making a boat load of money 7 days a week. |
| 3  Conversely when you focus on God as your blessing more than anything this world can offer, you hallow his name and honor Him as the greater wealth  -Side by side terms=God as Creator and source of all blessings  -God not only wanted Israelites to enjoy God as Creator but God as Savior.  -Deut. 5:15  “You shall remember that you were a slave in the land of Egypt, and the Lord your God brought you out of there by a mighty hand and by an outstretched arm; therefore the Lord your God commanded you to observe the sabbath day”  Furthermore, Exodus 31:13 Sabbath=sign for Israel pointing to Yahweh as Creator and Redeemer  Israel was to know they were who they were because of pure grace, they contributed nothing to their salvation | 4  OT did not specify the “when” of Sabbath  -Only do not work, daily income  Pharisees not content with this and read between the lines what they wanted the Sabbath to mean. Rules and regulations  Talmud, Jewish interpretation of OT 24 chapters of Sabbath law-keeping!  -You couldn’t travel more than 1999 steps (800 meters)  -If you wanted to travel more than that, you had to  set food or an object from your house at the end  of the 1999 steps to go another 1999 steps.  -Couldn’t carry anything heavier than a fig (or twice as far if half the weight of a fig)  -If you ate an olive and spit it out, you couldn’t eat a whole olive in your mouth because your palate tasted the flavor of a whole olive |
| 5  -If you threw an object in the air and caught it with your other hand, it would be a violation of the Sabbath  -If you reached out for food when it wasn’t the Sabbath and then brought your hand back to your mouth and Sabbath began, you must immediately drop the food from hand because you would be carrying a burden  -Taylor couldn’t carry his needle  -scribe couldn’t carry pen  -couldn’t examine clothing for lice lest you somehow find lice and kill it. It’s considered work  -No buying or selling  -Couldn’t light a fire  -warm water could be poured on cold but not the other way around | 6  -You couldn’t boil egg if all you did was put it in the sand  -Couldn’t take shower because if the water fell off you might wash the floor  -Chairs couldn’t be moved because they would make a rut in the floor  -Women couldn’t wear jewelry because it weighed heavier than a fig  -A radish couldn’t be left in salt because it would make a pickle and that would constitute work  -Favorite: Women couldn’t look in mirror lest they find gray hair and try to pull it out  Irony: Pharisees made it harder to rest on the Sabbath because you would be constantly worried about every little movement you did  -List goes on and on |
| 7  -Created a burdensome system that sucked the life out of the Sabbath  -Danger of legalism  -Went beyond what was written  1 Corinthians 4:6  “Not go beyond what is written”  -Everything must be based on biblical truth.  -Your sufficiency must be only in the written word of God.  -Does not mean we cannot have doctrinal clarity or to try to understand and resolve certain theological tensions in Scripture  -But what it does mean is that everything we do should be based on what the Bible says | 8  -If someone is trying to push a theology that is not derived from the Bible, ask them,  “Can you show me book, chapter, and verse?”  Nobody including the pastor is exempt in being tested against the words of Scripture. And if you find out you have believed in something wrong according to Scripture, then it’s ok. You repent of that and believe the correct thing.  -Pharisees problem=like Catholics, putting tradition on par with Scripture  Deuteronomy 4:2 “You shall not ad to the word which I am commanding you, nor take away from it, that you may keep the commandments of the Lord your God which I command you.”  Revelation 22 severe warning: |
| 9  Revelation 22:18  “I testify to everyone who hears the words of the prophecy of this book: if anyone adds to them, God will add to him the plagues which are written in this book; and if anyone takes away from the words of the book of this prophecy, God will take away his part from the tree of life and from the holy city, which are written in this book.”  -It shows how God’s Word is to be regard as final and absolute in all of life.  -From all the material devoted to it, the Sabbath for the Pharisees was probably the single most tradition that they valued, tooted, and prided themselves in keeping.  -“Lord of the Sabbath”=outrage  -Equality with God and is God  -“Son of Man”=Second Adam representative of humanity to reverse the curse. Title of deity going back to Daniel 7:13-14 going before Ancient of Days | 10  Pharisees knew God created the Sabbath so Jesus was claiming to be God by his title  -Jesus nullified Pharisees tradition which ended up being a curse, a dreadful thing for the people.  -Lived their lives to always find something wrong in someone, instead of encouraging people. Legalism is a brutal way to live for it suck out all joy and life out of its victims and the victimizer  -Do you have a critical spirit? If so, then you might not be too far off from having the heart of a legalist  We enter the final conflict within this section, conflict number 5 where it is the most intense conflict out of the 5 that leads to Jesus’ enemies conspiring to kill him.  Read 3:6  -Pharisees were waiting to pounce on Him |
| 11  -Man could have been in danger in letting Jesus heal him  -V. 4 asks stinging question that struck at the callous heart of the Pharisees  -Tradition was no helping anyone unless life-threatening emergency  -If building cave in and you went through rubble, you could pull out someone who is about to die, but leave anyone already dead in the rubble until after the Sabbath  -If you saw someone dislocate or break their foot, you could not help him because it was not a life-threatening injury  -Sick, twisted and evil tradition Pharisees | 12  Question met with complete silence  In another account Jesus says who wouldn’t rescue their animal that fell down the hole on Sabbath?  -Human are infinitely more valuable  -Made in the image and likeness of God!  V. 5 “anger”=outraged at cold and lifeless hearts  They should have been the most loving and compassionate in Israel but ended up becoming most hateful and indifferent to human life.  Illus: Like Texas teacher that was fired for encouraging students to fight in classroom. She was promoting the opposite of what teachers were to represent  -Not only angered, but “grieved” at their lack of love  -Caught up and obsessed with not breaking the Sabbath that they didn’t care whether someone was suffering extreme pain or not. |
| 13  -Jesus full love, love incarnate showed compassion to this man and healed him  -Pharisees immediately went out and conspired with the Herodians, their hated political enemy, to murder Jesus  -Their rage is like those Jews in Acts 23:12 who vowed to never eat or drink until Paul was dead  We see suffering servant Isaiah 53 here in chapter 3, foreshadow Jesus’ suffering and death. Just as John the Baptist was handed over to prison, Jesus will be handed over to lawless men and put to death  -Sabbath was very vital to keep for Israel’s spiritual health.  -Day of grace, consecration, and blessing  -Severe consequences for breaking the Sabbath  -exiled to foreign land and death penalty  But when Jesus came, He fulfilled the Sabbath | 14  We are not required to obey it. It was only for Israel as a sign pointing to something greater  -Colossians 2:16-17 “Therefore no one is to act as your judge in regard to food or drink or in respect to a festival or a new moon or a Sabbath day-things which are a mere shadow of what is to come; but the substance belongs to Christ.”  Romans 14:5  “One person regards one day above another, another regards every day alike. Each person much be fully convinced in his own mind.”  Some groups would argue that the Sabbath is still required to follow like the Seventh Day Adventists.  Link Sabbath to creation Exodus 20:11 but there is no instance of biblical sabbath keeping from Adam to Moses recorded in Scripture.  -We meet on Sunday not because it is the “Christian Sabbath” but because our Lord was resurrected on the first day and churches through the ages have traditionally worshipped on Sunday |
| 15  -Don’t confuse corporate gathering on Sunday as the Sabbath  -There is however biblical principles in the Sabbath for our bodies  -It would be wise to have at least a day of rest  from work where we can focus on the Lord and  rest and recuperate. Some people think it’s best to  do that on Sunday, some think its best to do it on  Saturday. Some think Wednesday is the best!  -Ultimately every day should be a day of rest in Christ  -Remember, man was not made for the Sabbath but the Sabbath for man. The Pharisees made it the other way around. They created a Sabbath where men were to conform their lives to.  They were like people who worshipped the moon for brilliance but only reflected sun  -Bible not only speaks of Christ as fulfillment of Sabbath, but spiritual rest from sin | 16  Read Hebrews 4:1-13  -God led Israel to Canaan to find ultimate rest in Christ  -Unfortunately whole first generation failed in unbelief  -hearts were hardened and deceived by  deceitfulness of sin  Possibility that some of you may be like this week after week  -Difference? One believed and other didn’t  Which group do you belong in? Those who act or those who don’t act?  -Matthew 7 House on sand verses House on Rock  -Rock is Christ  “Rock of ages, cleft for me, let me hide myself in thee”  Ps. 46 Cease striving and know that I am God  Come to Jesus and find rest for your souls |