

Lord of the Sabbath—[Mark 2:23–3:6](#)

Topics:

Healing, Hypocrisy, Judging Others, Law, Legalism, Obedience, Rest

Open It

1. *How do you prefer to use your weekends?
2. What do you understand to be the difference between “the letter of the law” and “the spirit of the law”?

Explore It

1. What is the setting of the story, and why is it significant? ([2:23](#))
2. *What did the disciples do that outraged the Pharisees? ([2:24](#))
3. Why did the Pharisees confront Jesus about the actions of His disciples? ([2:24](#))
4. *What was Jesus’ response to the Pharisees’ charges? ([2:25–27](#))
5. *According to Jesus, why were the disciples of both David and Jesus justified in breaking the Sabbath? ([2:25–27](#))
6. Why did Jesus say He was “Lord even of the Sabbath”? ([2:28](#))
7. What happened after the confrontation between Jesus and the Pharisees? ([3:1](#))

8. Why were some of the Pharisees watching Jesus so closely? ([3:2](#))
9. What was notable about the way Jesus performed this miracle? ([3:3](#))
10. To whom did Jesus address a provocative question about “the Sabbath”? ([3:4](#))
11. What was it about the Pharisees that so distressed Jesus? ([3:5](#))
12. What significance do you see in the fact that the Pharisees were willing to plot with their enemies, the Herodians, to kill Jesus? ([3:6](#))
13. What do Jesus’ actions in this story tell you about His concerns? ([2:23–3:6](#))

Get It

1. Why do you think Jesus healed the man publicly?
2. How was Jesus’ spirituality different from that of the Pharisees?
3. Where have you seen rules-only spirituality in the church today?
4. In what areas do you think your church might be following the “letter of the law” rather than the “spirit of the law”?
5. How should we respond to suggestions that it only matters how closely we keep the letter of the law?

6. *When have you ever experienced a time when the requirements of your Christian faith seemed to conflict with a human need?
7. *What should we do when a requirement of the faith seems to conflict with a human need?
8. In what areas of your faith do you tend to be too beholden to rules or traditions?
9. What are your responsibilities on the Sabbath?
10. What is Jesus' attitude toward the Sabbath?
11. In what ways can we copy Jesus' example in how He used the Sabbath?
12. What difference does it make that "the Sabbath was made for man"?

Apply It

1. *In what settings are you able to "do good and save life"? How?
2. What can you do this week to reflect God's design for the Sabbath?
3. What can you use as a reminder to guard against a concern only for the letter of the law?