

Restrictions Don't Apply

Mark 2:23-3:6

Harvesting on the Sabbath (2:23-28)

While walking through someone's grain fields on a Sabbath, the disciples began picking heads of grain to eat. The Pharisees considered it to be reaping, an act of work forbidden on the Sabbath (Exodus 34:21). So they demanded an explanation from Jesus.

In response, Jesus appealed to the Scriptures and a precedent set by David and his companions when they were hungry and in need (1 Samuel 21:1-6).

The Sabbath was instituted to bless mankind. The Pharisees had turned it into a burden.

Healing on the Sabbath (3:1-6)

On another Sabbath, Jesus is in the synagogue and sees a man with a withered hand. The Pharisees were watching to see what Jesus would do, waiting to find a reason to accuse him.

In their concern for legal detail, the Pharisees forgot the mercy and grace of God and why God gave them the Sabbath in the first place. In their sense of piety they became insensitive to the purposes of God and the sufferings of humanity.

The Pharisees rejected Jesus and immediately began to conspire with the Herodians to destroy him.

Principles to Practice

God's gifts should release us rather than restrict us.

Jesus is Lord over all.

People are more important than rules.

Ministry can and should take place any and every day of the week.