

A Follow Up Bible Study

June 9 2021

Building on the Messages of the Lessons from the Second Sunday after Pentecost

Warm Up

Every now and then I hear someone note: *“The Old Testament regulations on food were designed to promote good health and avoid foodborne illnesses. The Sabbath regulations also promoted good health. It looks like knowledgeable people passed off good advice as a command from God.”*

Have you ever run into something like that?

What would be an ill-advised response? How might you constructively respond that might lead to the opportunity to share the gospel?

Sermon for June 6, 2021

Text: Deuteronomy 5:12-15

Theme: Observe the Sabbath. What does that mean for us?

Share your questions or comments regarding Sunday’s sermon.

Share your questions or comments regarding Sunday’s sermon **text**.

Gospel Lesson: Mark 2:23-28

²³ Once on a Sabbath day, Jesus was passing through the grain fields, and his disciples began to pick heads of grain as they walked along. ²⁴ The Pharisees said to him, “Look, why are they doing what is not lawful on the Sabbath day?”

²⁵ He replied to them, “Have you never read what David did when he was in need and hungry (he and his companions)? ²⁶ He entered the house of God in the time of Abiathar the high priest and ate the Bread of the Presence, which is not lawful for anyone to eat, except for the priests. He also gave some to his companions.”

²⁷ Then Jesus said to them, “The Sabbath was made for man, not man for the Sabbath. ²⁸ So the Son of Man is the Lord even of the Sabbath.”

1. Mark 2 = this takes place early in Jesus’ ministry in Galilee. The Pharisees had already challenged Jesus for claiming to have the authority to forgive sins. They also asked why his disciples didn’t fast like the Pharisees and like John the Baptist’s disciples did. Jesus’ message challenged their priorities.

They didn’t charge the disciples with theft because Deuteronomy 23 says: *²⁴ When you come into your neighbor’s vineyard, you may eat grapes to satisfy your appetite, but you must not put any into your container. ²⁵ When you come into a field of standing grain belonging to your neighbor and you pluck the heads of grain with your hand, you are not allowed to use a sickle to cut his standing grain.*

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By accusing Jesus' disciples of violating the Sabbath rules, they were accusing Jesus, their Rabbi/Master, of being unfaithful - of violating the Law of Moses, when in fact it was Rabbinical interpretations or applications of God's Sabbath commandment. So who was really on trial here?

2. Jesus turns to Scripture. He didn't bring up an example of applying the Sabbath day, rather a God pleasing application of the Sinaitic covenant. The event Jesus brings to mind - 1 Samuel 21:1-6:

¹ David came to Ahimelek the priest at Nob. When he came to meet David, Ahimelek was trembling with fear, and he said to David, "Why are you alone? Why isn't there anyone with you?"

² David said to Ahimelek the priest, "The king sent me on a mission and told me, 'Don't let anyone know anything about where I am sending you or about your orders.' I have instructed the young men to wait for me at a certain place. ³ So what do you have on hand? Please give me five loaves of bread, or whatever is available."

⁴ The priest answered David, "I do not have any ordinary bread, but there is holy bread — I can give it to you only if your young men have kept themselves away from women."

⁵ David answered the priest, "Yes indeed, women have been kept away from us just as they have been on previous occasions. Whenever I go out on a mission, the bodies of the young men are kept holy even if it is only an ordinary journey. How much more then shall their bodies be holy today?"

⁶ So the priest gave him holy bread, because there was no bread there except for the Bread of the Presence which had been removed from the presence of the Lord and replaced with hot bread.

What stands out to you from this account that Jesus referenced?

Is Jesus teaching *situational ethics*: "the doctrine of flexibility in the application of moral laws according to circumstances?"

3. Explain Jesus' words: *The Sabbath was made for man, not man for the Sabbath.*

How is this an application of the example Jesus brought to mind?

4. After teaching this truth, Jesus then makes this application or draws this conclusion: ²⁸ *So the Son of Man is the Lord even of the Sabbath.* Why does this follow? What does this mean?

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Second Lesson: 2 Corinthians 4:5-12

⁵ Indeed, we do not preach ourselves, but Jesus Christ as Lord, and ourselves as your servants for Jesus' sake.

⁶ For the God who said, "Light will shine out of darkness," is the same one who made light shine in our hearts to give us the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the person of Jesus Christ.

⁷ We hold this treasure in clay jars to show that its extraordinary power is from God and not from us. ⁸ We are hard pressed on every side, yet not crushed; perplexed, yet not despairing; ⁹ persecuted, yet not forsaken; struck down, yet not destroyed. ¹⁰ We always carry around in our body the death of the Lord Jesus, so that the life of Jesus may also be revealed in our body. ¹¹ To be sure, while we are living we are continually being handed over to death because of Jesus, so that the life of Jesus may also be revealed in our mortal flesh. ¹² So then, death is working in us, but life is working in you.

5. The word *indeed* tells you this is related to what was said before this. Consider this context:

^{2:17} To be sure, we are not like many who peddle the word of God for profit. Instead, in Christ we speak with sincerity in the sight of God, as men from God.

***3** Are we beginning to commend ourselves again? Or do we need, like some people, letters of recommendation to you or from you? ² You yourselves are our letter, written on our hearts, known and read by everyone. ³ It is clear that you are a letter from Christ, delivered by us, written not with ink but with the Spirit of the living God, not on stone tablets but on tablets that are hearts of flesh.*

⁴ Such is the confidence we have through Christ before God. ⁵ Not that we are competent by ourselves to claim that anything comes from us; rather, our competence is from God.

***4** Therefore, since we have this ministry as a result of the mercy shown us, we are not discouraged. ² On the contrary, we have renounced shameful, underhanded methods. We do not operate in a deceitful way, and we do not distort the word of God. Instead, by proclaiming the truth clearly, we commend ourselves to everyone's conscience in the sight of God.*

So what was Paul dealing with?

What was Paul's answer to these challenges?

6. What is the characteristic and reputation of clay jars in contrast to other vessels?

Why does God choose *clay jars* to carry his message?

7. What's striking about these facts? *⁸ We are hard pressed on every side, yet not crushed; perplexed, yet not despairing; ⁹ persecuted, yet not forsaken; struck down, yet not destroyed.*

8. These two verses explain each other. *¹⁰ We always carry around in our body the death of the Lord Jesus, so that the life of Jesus may also be revealed in our body. ¹¹ To be sure, while we are living we are continually being handed over to death because of Jesus, so that the life of Jesus may also be revealed in our mortal flesh.* Explain the first half of v. 10.

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Now explain the second half of v. 10. Consider vs. 8-9 and the second half of v. 11 to explain it.

9. While this text is not about the Sabbath, where in the text do we see Sabbath rest on display?

First Lesson: Deuteronomy 5:12-15

¹² Observe the Sabbath day by setting it apart as holy, just as the LORD your God commanded you. ¹³ Six days you are to serve and perform all of your regular work, ¹⁴ but the seventh day is a sabbath rest to the LORD your God. You are not to do any regular work, you or your son or your daughter or your male servant or your female servant or your ox or your donkey or any of your livestock or the alien who resides inside your gates, in order that your male servant and your female servant may rest like you. ¹⁵ Remember that you were slaves in the land of Egypt and that the LORD your God brought you out from there with a strong hand and an outstretched arm. Therefore the LORD your God commanded you to keep the day of rest.

10. Just think of how strange this practice would seem to their new Canaanite neighbors when they settled in the land. Not just that the land owners don't work the fields or vineyards on the 7th day, but that they don't even have their servants working and don't let visitors work on that day. List possible Canaanite reactions.

11. To properly observe the Sabbath day, parents needed to be clear **why** and **what** the significance of the day would be. List the reason given here and the one brought out in the Sermon from Exodus 20.

12. When you come to understand the full meaning of the *Rest* God has for his people - consider what the phrase *Rest in Peace* means to a Christian at a death bed and on a tomb stone.