

We've got a **TON of scripture** today

We're gonna **look** at the **final THREE** confrontations
between **Jesus** & the **Pharisees**

that **wrap up** this **powerful**
FIVE confrontation section of **Mark**

Last msg – we saw the **2nd confrontation**
in the msg ***“Don't Be a Pharisee”***

Today I want to **give** you a **good reason** – to **NEVER Embrace**
ANY type – of **Modern-Day Pharisee-ism**

We **want** to **leave** today – making a **CLEAR CHOICE** - **Between**

Embracing the **GRACE** of **God** in **Jesus Christ** - **OR**
Embracing the **LAW** of Any **Current-Day Pharisees**

Let's Pray

***Grace is God's unmerited favor – It is His goodness toward those
who have no right to expect God's goodness***

The Greek word (Charis) is also translated GIFT

& So – we choose between

Receiving the GIFT of God's GRACE – OR
Trying to EARN our standing before God by Following the LAW

EITHER the actual Biblical law – or ANY of the
Hundreds of Man's VERSIONS – of God's LAW

So - Before we take a look at our FIRST Confrontation
Between God's GRACE - & Man's LAW

Let's get some background on FASTING

God's Law set aside ONE day a year – as a required
Day of Fasting – The *Day of Atonement*

this was a to be a time
of repenting and humbling yourself before God

There were also “Special Fasts” called
Usually during times of crisis

& there WERE - & there ARE
good & appropriate reasons to FAST

BUT – The Pharisees had made Fasting
An outward SHOW of RELIGION

Eventually – the best of the best - of the Most Religious Pharisees
were Fasting TWICE a WEEK

Just to make sure EVERYONE knew

how **much more HOLY** they **were** - than the **common people**

Mark 2:18 (NLT)

18 Once when John's disciples and the Pharisees were fasting
(John the Baptist may have been in prison at this time – prompting his disciples to also fast), ***some people*** (NKJ= 'they') ***came to Jesus and asked, "Why don't your disciples fast like John's disciples and the Pharisees do?"***

"Jesus, if you really have 'come from God,' why don't your disciples follow the MOST STRICT of the Religious customs, like the Pharisees do?" (a question we should ask)

& Notice - **Jesus doesn't** say **FASTING** is **wrong**

He **IMPLIES** – that the **WRONG MOTIVE** for **Fasting**
(like the **Pharisees** had) **was WRONG**

Mark 2:19 (NLT)

19 Jesus replied, "Do wedding guests fast while celebrating with the groom? Of course not. They can't fast while the groom is with them.

Can you **imagine going** to a wedding
and **after** the **ceremony** you **head** over to the **reception hall**

& it's **just** an **empty room** – **NO food** – & **NO Furniture**
& the **Groom stands** up and **says** →

since you are all here to celebrate this **JOYOUS occasion**
we're all going to sit on this **HARD Floor** - & **FAST**

The **Bible says** - **Jesus** is the **GROOM** -
& **all believers** are the **BRIDE** (the church)

& when the **BRIDE** & the **GROOM** are together
it's a Time of **GREAT CELEBRATION** – **Not Fasting**

& at this point – Jesus **WAS with** – **“His Bride to Be”**
The **very beginnings** of the **church**

& **so Jesus** says – **This** is **NO TIME** for your **Religious Laws**

The **Groom** & the **Bride-to-be**
are just **getting to know** each other

But - **Jesus** says – there **WILL BE a time** – soon enough
when **Fasting** will be **Appropriate**

Mark 2:20 (NLT)

20 But someday the groom will be taken away from them, and then they will fast.

Jesus was **speaking** of **himself**

Being **PHYSICALLY taken** away from his **followers**

THEN – there will **be a time** for his **followers to Fast**

But then – Jesus goes even further in his explanation
with TWO MORE Illustrations

BOTH explaining – that the NEW Covenant of GRACE
is FULFILLING the OLD Covenant of the LAW

& he's going to say

This NEW Covenant of Grace – IN HIM

Will NEVER FIT – into the Old Covenant of the Law

Here's how Jesus illustrates it

Mark 2:21-22 (NLT)

21 “Besides, who would patch old clothing (the law) with new cloth (grace)? For the new patch would shrink and rip away from the old cloth, leaving an even bigger tear than before.

22 “And no one puts new wine (grace) into old wineskins (the law). For the wine would burst the wineskins, and the wine and the skins would both be lost. New wine calls for new wineskins.”

Now - v.22 has been used – for all kinds of wild stuff
thrown under the heading of “New Wine”

But Context determines Correct Interpretation of the Bible

& the Context here is CLEARLY

that the New Covenant of GRACE, IN Jesus Christ

Has FULFILLED - & therefore REPLACED
the Old Covenant of the LAW

Guys – Jesus Christ came to THE BURDENED

To UNBURDEN them – BY His GRACE

The Pharisees came to THE RELIGIOUS

To give them LAWS to Prove how Religious they were

We easily see it in the Bible – in the 1st Century

& we easily see it – in our culture today

Embracing - RELIGIOUS LEGALISM

PROVES how Religious you are

Embracing - the GRACE that comes in Jesus Christ

Gives you FREEDOM - & NEW LIFE in Him

& so now – we MOVE to our 2nd Confrontation

between GOD'S GRACE - & MAN'S LAW

& it's gonna get really heated now

because Jesus is gonna MESS with

Man's Chosen Granddaddy of the law – THE SABBATH

Mark 2:23-24 (NLT)

23 One Sabbath day as Jesus was walking through some grain fields, his disciples began breaking off heads of grain to eat.

24 But the Pharisees said to Jesus, "Look, why are they breaking the law (bum, bum, bum) by harvesting grain on the Sabbath?"

They're **breaking the Law** – by **eating** a **handful of grain**
while **walking** thru a **field** . . . ***God help them***

& - **in fact** – **God** – **Who is WITH them**
IS going to **Help them**

I **think more** than **anything else**

It was **Jesus MESSING** with **MAN'S Law** about the **Sabbath**
that **really drove** the **Religious Leaders** to **KILL him**

WHY is it – that **the Pharisees** then - & **some churches** today

choose the SABBATH over **ALL** other **laws**
to **make** such a **huge deal about**

In “**Christian-Ease**” – **Churches** that **FOCUS** on the **Sabbath**
Above God's other **Laws**

are **called 'Sabbath Keeping Christians'**

BUT – **There** are also **OTHER LAWS**
about our **Relationship** with God

Why do we **never hear** about
“**Have no other gods**” Christians (**1st commandment**)

Why do we **never hear** about
“**Have no idols**” Christians (**2nd commandment**)

Why do we **never hear** about ***“Don’t use the Lord’s name in vain”***
Christians (**3rd commandment**)

WHY did the **Pharisees** choose **THAT particular Law**
to Make a HUGE DEAL About - **more** than **any other Law**

& **WHY today** – do **some churches** choose to **make a huge deal**
about that **one Law** – **More** than **ANY other LAW ???**

Well - **I googled** – the **biggest church** we **know** – that **focuses** more
on the **Sabbath Commandment** than **any other**

& I **read** some **early history** of that church – **where** it’s **Founder** had
made **THREE FALSE Predictions** about the **Return** of **Jesus** Christ

& in **the aftermath** of that – the **2nd generation** leaders **decided**
they **needed something** new to **keep** their **followers**
from **going** to other **churches**

& **so they chose** to **focus** on **THE SABBATH & DIETARY LAWS** –
NEITHER of which the **founder** of the **movement** taught

& **then** – to **make it STICK** – the **New Prophetess** of the Movement
said that **she** was **given** these **New Laws** – **IN a VISION from God**

That’s **just how man’s religion** works
It’s **not pretty** – but **it’s true**

& it’s **Very, Very WRONG**

But - The Hebrew - SHABBAT
where we get SABBATH - MEANS - REST

& REST is GOOD, Right? . . . *Who could use some?*

BUT – When we add the Burden of Religious LAW-KEEPING
to REST - *Doesn't it become – LESS Restful?*

The breaking of MAN'S Sabbath Laws (*not God's*, man's)

Continues to be ONE of the BIGGEST Confrontations
between the GRACE of Jesus
& the Religious LAW of Man

& so here – Jesus is gonna go BACK – to the Days of the Law
& he's going to show – God's Grace existed THEN

Mark 2:25-26 (NLT)

*25 Jesus said to them, "Haven't you ever read in the Scriptures what David did when he and his companions were hungry?
26 He went into the house of God (during the days when Abiathar was high priest) and broke the law by eating the sacred loaves of bread that only the priests are allowed to eat. He also gave some to his companions."*

King David – Israel's greatest King – Broke the CEREMONIAL Law
By eating the "Show Bread" in the Tabernacle

BECAUSE there was NO other food

Jesus is trying to SHOW – that God was a God of GRACE
even in the Days of the LAW

BUT - The Covenant of the LAW – WAS NECESSARY
In order to LEAD TO the Covenant of GRACE

The Covenant of the LAW proved that we
COULD NOT be made right with God on our own

& In the Covenant of GRACE - Jesus Christ FULFILLED
the Righteous Requirements of the LAW – In our PLACE

& then Jesus offers us
HIS Righteousness - THRU our FAITH in Him

& so now – Jesus is really going to make his point
about all this “Man’s Law about the Sabbath” stuff

Mark 2:27 (NLT)

27 Then Jesus said to them, “The Sabbath was made to meet the needs of people, and not people to meet the requirements of the Sabbath.

God made the Sabbath to meet OUR need – for REST

God did NOT make the Sabbath

so that MAN could add a long list of Man’s Laws

& then TURN what God meant for REST

into a Heavy Religious Burden! - - - ONLY Man could do that!

& the Pharisees are the **ultimate PICTURE** in the Bible
of **what it looks like**

for **MAN** to **TURN** what **God meant** for **GRACE**
into a **Religious Burden**

& **Jesus TRIES** to **close** the **Door** on the **whole thing** in

Mark 2:28 (NLT)

28 So the Son of Man is Lord, even over the Sabbath!"

JESUS IS LORD – **OF the Law** - & **OVER the Law**
Including the **SABBATH**

Jesus fulfilled ALL of **the Law**
in Your place – & **On your behalf**

& now – By **HIS Grace** - & Thru **YOUR FAITH**
he offers you **HIS Righteousness** – in **place** of **YOUR sin**

& **that** is **something** no amount of **Religious Burden-Bearing**
can ever **Give you**

Finally – Our **Third & Final Confrontation** → →

Mark 3:1-2 (NLT)

1 Jesus went into the synagogue again and noticed a man with a deformed hand.

2 Since it was the Sabbath (bump bump bummm), Jesus' enemies watched him closely. If he healed the man's hand, they planned to accuse him of working on the Sabbath.

The **Religious Leaders** are **watching closely**

NOT to see if **Jesus** has the **Power to HEAL**

BUT – **to see** if he **breaks** one of **THEIR** little **man-laws**

& **I DO MEAN** – **THEIR little man-laws**

because the **Scribes** had written **39 categories**

of **things** that are **considered WORK** - on the **Sabbath**

& **so** – if **Jesus** was **going** to **HEAL this guy**

he had **39 Legal HOOPS** to **jump** through

You can **hear** the **Pharisees whispering**

***Yeah – If he heals this man on the Sabbath
we're definitely going to Kill him for that***

How DARE HE – Be God on the Sabbath

Doesn't he know – how HOLY the Sabbath is

Jesus has GOT to Be INFURIATED right here

Watching these Religious Leaders

Be so **much more concerned**
about their **made-up laws**

than about **GOD'S GRACE** toward this **man**

& so – we read in Mark 3:3-4 (NLT)

3 Jesus said to the man with the deformed hand, “Come and stand in front of everyone.”

4 Then he turned to his critics and asked, “Does the law permit good deeds on the Sabbath, or is it a day for doing evil? Is this a day to save life or to destroy it?” But they wouldn't answer him.

Because they're **saying to themselves**

“What do you mean good or evil, save life or destroy it? We don't know about any of that – this is about OUR Religious Laws!”

& Jesus is MIFFED – He's ANGRY

& he is Deeply SADDENED
by the **hard hearts** of the **Religious Leaders**

How do I know? – cause the Bible tells me so

Mark 3:5 (NLT) →

Mark 3:5 (NLT)

5 He looked around at them angrily and was deeply saddened by their hard hearts. Then he said to the man, “Hold out your hand.” So the man held out his hand, and it was restored!

& then – **LOOK** at this **last vs**

it says everything – about **those**
who are **committed** to **protecting** their **Religious Laws**

Mark 3:6 (NLT)

6 At once the Pharisees went away and met with the supporters of Herod to plot how to kill Jesus.

The “**Supporters of Herod**” were called **Herodians**

They were an **elite** Jewish **Political Group**
& **normally OPPOSED** to the **Pharisees**

But – **now** – they **had a Common Enemy** – **Jesus**

& so **now you have**
Two Powerful & **Influential Groups**

Working together

To **REMOVE Jesus** from **their Culture**

That would be **truly SCARY**
to **live in a Culture** where **THAT** was **happening**

**But – Ultimately – it's NOT about
A CULTURE Trying to REMOVE Jesus Christ**

It's **about a CHOICE** that **each of us** must **make**

IF we Desire to SEEK GOD today – WE MUST CHOOSE

To **EITHER**

SEEK the GRACE of Jesus Christ – OR

SEEK the LAW of the Religious Leaders

& **I promise you** – the **Pharisees** in the **Gospels**

DO NOT Represent

God's Desire for you – **OR God's Plan** for you

God's Desire – is that you **would EMBRACE**
the GRACE of **Jesus Christ**

→ → →

**That you would SEE – that you could NEVER be “Made Right”
By keeping ANY amount of Religious LAWS**

**& because of that – Jesus Christ came
to live a Perfectly Righteous life**

FOR You – IN your Place

**& then Die on the Cross
to pay the full penalty for your Sin**

**& then to offer you HIS Righteousness
as a GIFT of His GRACE**

& you receive it ALL – THRU Faith ALONE

**by putting your Full Faith & Trust
in Jesus Christ alone – as your Savior & Lord**

**Please – CHOOSE to SEEK
the GRACE of Jesus Christ - Today**

Let's Pray