

# Mark 2:23-3:12 – 18 April 2021

## “Getting The Most Out Of God’s Word”

### Introduction

- \*Jesus has begun travelling thru Galilee in the north
- \*Preaching all should repent & prepare for the Kingdom
- \*Jesus didn’t ultimately come...
  - to deliver new doctrine (although He did)
  - to deal with deceivers (although He did)
  - to destroy demons (although He did)
- ...He ultimately came...to die... and be the Deliverer
- \*Jesus is here as the embodiment of God, to perfectly represent God (He said, “I & My Father are one”)
- \*God has given us His mind in the Old & New Testaments
- \*Now, we will apply God’s Word properly as we work thru it and ask the Holy Spirit to teach us
- \*But there are some classic pitfalls that some fall into

**Today we’ll look at 3 pitfalls to avoid so that we don’t misrepresent God and His Word**

# **1<sup>st</sup> pitfall to avoid so we don't misrepresent God is: Misapplying the Word of God (Vs 23-28)**

Read Vs 23

1. We're talking about walking along and swiping your hand thru the wheat field to pluck the heads.
2. Turns into a gum you can chew on a while

Read Vs 24

1. Herein lies the Pharisees problem: They're misapplying the Scriptures to their circumstances
2. Read Deut 23:25 – Specifically allows this
3. They misapply the Sabbath command to Israel of “doing no work” as meaning you can't even simply care for yourself in this way

Read Vs 25-26

1. The Sabbath was made to bless and help man, not hinder him from preserving his own life
2. If you drink sunscreen instead of rubbing it on, the misapplication will do you no good!

Matt 12 reminds us that Jesus added another example

1. That the priests do “work” on the Sabbath & are considered blameless.
2. If you only go so deep as to say, “God said do no work on the Sabbath”, you’ll be an inch deep Christian that doesn’t know God will for his life.

Read Vs 27-28

1. Law wasn’t made to *prevent* you from good things, it was designed to *provide* you good things.
  - a. Provided rest & reflection on creation
  - b. Wasn’t to prevent you from “having fun”
  - c. Wasn’t to prevent you from caring for self
2. You either look at God’s guidelines as provisions or preventions
  - a. God says don’t have sex outside of marriage (protection, not prevention)
  - b. God says don’t steal (Not prevention from prospering, it’s protection from thieves)
3. So the Pharisees misapplied the Sabbath Law

## Examples Of Misapplying God's Word

1. Read Phil 4:13 – “I can do all things...”
  - a. Doesn't mean that you'll success at whatever you set your hand to
  - b. It means that I can serve God regardless of financial state that I find myself in.
2. Read Matt 7:1 – Judge not, lest ye...”
  - a. Doesn't mean you can't call out sin in others.
  - b. It means that you shouldn't give up on them or condemn them as hopeless wretches

Take each Scripture & learn it within its context

1. Article online says, “Bears stomp Colts in massive rampage”. But what does it mean?
  - a. You need to read it within its context
  - b. Is this sports article or headline news?
2. Literal Sabbath per wk isn't required (Col 2:16-17)
3. W/i context Sabbath points to the rest Christians have in Jesus for completing salvation's work (Heb 3-4)
4. These events are proceeded by Matt 11:28-30

## **2<sup>nd</sup> pitfall to avoid so we don't misrepresent God is: Valuing Tradition Over the Word of God (Vs 1-6)**

Read Vs 1-2

1. They wanted a healing, but not for right reason.
  - a. Many today want to grow a big church
    - i. But only for their own power or control
  - b. Many today attend church
    - i. But motivated only but what they can get
2. Are we motivated to catch people doing good & compliment them? Or motivated to catch people doing wrong to condemn them?
3. They've placed their value in the wrong thing.
  - a. They valued their manmade rules even more than God's heart of valuing people.

Read Vs 3-4

1. Jesus is always ready to help us reason thru it.
2. He wants to start a dialog, but they're not w/ it.
3. "Come let us reason together, though ..." (Isa 1:18)
4. Jesus gives every chance to open up to Him.

## Read Vs 5-6

1. Herodians – Aristocratic Jewish group that favored Rome.
2. Jesus has violated, not the Law of God, but the Pharisee's religious traditions...and they're mad.
3. Pharisee's tradition was that performing medicine was work, therefore not on Sabbath
  - a. Jesus' point is that we can still do good on the Sabbath, even if it's 'work'.
  - b. We can still care for others!

## Example of valuing tradition over the Word of God

1. Some have a dress code within the church
  - a. Make people feel as outcasts, thus violating the principle of the Word to edify & help others.
2. You can have a sincere tradition / belief, but be sincerely wrong, by valuing it greater than Scripture
3. Back to our beachgoer – “Well I just believe that you need to get that first burn of the year: while the Sunscreen is setting there and you burn”

## **3<sup>rd</sup> pitfall to avoid so we don't misrepresent God is: Majoring on the minor issues of the Word (Vs 7-12)**

Read Vs 7-8

1. People coming from every direction b/c of the “great things He did”.
2. There are the people that come to Jesus for what earthly things that can get from him.
  - a. I need a physical healing or money
  - b. Those wanting help getting out of trouble that THEY'VE made.
    - i. “Oh God, if you bail me outta this one, I'll change my life around”.
3. When you're a child, if you only gave your father or mother attention when you wanted things, they'd think you didn't care about them at all (Jhn 6:26-27)

Read Vs 9-10

1. He went out in the boat to enable Him to teach
2. He keeping the main thing, the main thing.
3. Preaching of eternal life needs to stay primary

## Read Vs 11-12

1. It's not Jesus' time to be revealed as Messiah
2. This is the time to teach entrance into the Kingdom of God by faith.
3. Notice the true confession of devils
  - a. It's based on true knowledge, not on belief
  - b. It's w/ heart man believes unto righteousness

Even today we've those that emphasize minor issues of the Scriptures instead of exalting Christ's work

1. There are healing ministries that would have you to believe that God wants everyone physically healed and healthy.
  - a. Tell that to the Apostle Paul or Timothy
  - b. It becomes a complete distraction when you value the healing greater than the Healer
2. Need to take a balanced approach to God, get to know the whole of God's mind to us (His Word)
3. This is like our Beachgoer only using sunscreen on his nose....there's so much more to do!



## Conclusion

So there are some common mistakes or pitfalls that we can avoid as we use God's Word in our daily lives.

### **1. Don't misapply God's Word**

- a. Use scripture within its context & genre
- b. Continue to grow and learn...it takes time
- c. God gave us His Word, not to *prevent us*, but to *provide for us*, use it in that light.

### **2. Don't value your tradition or beliefs higher than God's Word**

- a. We should be daily challenged to toss out our own standard / belief as we come across more of God's Word that contradicts...us.
- b. This shows belief that God's ways are better than my ways...that's the faith He wants

### **3. Don't major on the minor issues of the Word**

- a. Are you a balanced Christian?
- b. Only way to know is to love His whole Word