

CORE STUDY #4

JESUS CHRIST - LORD OVER ALL

PASSAGE: Mark 2:23-3:35

LEADER PREPARATION

Read the passage over at least three times, noting what you feel might be the main points of the passage. Using your **Summit Training Guide** (section 2 “Engaging the Word” and section 3 “Responding to the Word”), ask observation and interpretation questions of the passage.

You will also find it very helpful to read the parallel passages in the other 3 gospels. By reading all three gospels you will have a fuller picture of what happened and what was said.

- For Mk. 2:23-28 read Mt. 12:1-8; Lk. 6:1-5
- for Mk. 3:1-6 read Mt. 12:9-14; Lk. 6:6-11
- for Mk. 3:7-12 read Mt. 12:15,16; Lk. 6:17-19
- for Mk. 3:16-10, 23-27 read Mt. 10:2-4, 12:25-29; Lk. 6:14-16, 11:17-22

INTRODUCTORY QUESTION

How have you and your family “kept” Sabbath in the past?

FOUNDATIONS STUDY

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS (selection to choose from)

1. What do you think Jesus means when he says that the Sabbath was made for man, not man for the Sabbath?

The Sabbath was made for humankind’s enjoyment, to be a day of rest and refreshment. A day for spiritual, mental and physical restoration; see Exodus 20:8-11). It was not meant to be governed by a set of strict rules to ‘protect’ it. The Pharisees had created so many restrictions for keeping the Sabbath that the burden had become intolerable for the average person.

2. Read the Ten Commandments in Deut. 5:6-21. Do you think the Ten Commandments including the Sabbath are still relevant for us today? Why or why not?

3. How do you think Christians today can “keep” the Sabbath? How do you keep the Sabbath?

Paul Stevens in ‘Disciplines of the Hungry Heart’ writes, ‘In the deepest sense, we do not keep Sabbath; the Sabbath keeps us. Sabbath was not intended to be leisure time, but an intentional experience of reflection on the source and goals of our life on earth. Therefore, it keeps us turned toward God and heaven-bound.

4. What do you think Jesus is saying when he declares that he is the Lord of the Sabbath (2:27)?

RESPONSE QUESTION

In chapter 3 verse 35 Jesus says that whoever does God’s will is in his family. Discuss what it means for Christians to do God’s will here at UBC?

GOING DEEPER STUDY

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS (selection to choose from)

1. Why would the Pharisees want to kill Jesus just because he had “broken” their understanding of keeping Sabbath?

The Pharisees do not plot to kill Jesus only because of this one instance, but rather because of the accumulation of confrontations they have had with Jesus. But, this also reflects the weight the Pharisees had put on their own human laws. They viewed their laws surrounding the Sabbath as being as important as God's Word.

2. Who were the Herodians?

The Herodians were influential Jews who favored the Herodian dynasty and therefore supported Rome. Normally the Pharisees and Herodians would have been on opposite ends of the political spectrum of Jesus' day, but they joined together to remove Jesus. They feared Jesus might topple their hold on power.

3. What does it mean to blaspheme the Holy Spirit, a sin that can never be forgiven (vs. 28,29)?

The Pharisees had attributed Jesus' healing to be the power of Satan, not to that of the Holy Spirit. Calling God (Jesus and the Holy Spirit) Satan and therefore rejecting God is unpardonable. We are forgiven by accepting the free gift of Jesus' death as the punishment for our sin. We have relationship with God through Jesus and that relationship is sealed/guaranteed by receiving the Spirit. If we reject Jesus and the Holy Spirit we have rejected God Himself. Apart from God there can be no forgiveness for our sins.