

## Healing on the Sabbath – May 11, 2022

Jesus healed 7 times on the Sabbath. Only 2 did not have confrontation. Jesus challenged beliefs & traditions... His actions can open our eyes, too.

**4<sup>th</sup> Command** – “6 days you shall labor and do all your work, but the 7th day is a sabbath to the Lord your God. On it you shall not do any work”

Torah: 613 rules v. 10 commands. 39 categories of rules define “work”

So many rules, b/c we are always looking for loopholes.

How far can I go and still be “godly” and “righteous”?

Here are some of the Sabbath restrictions:

Carrying, burning, kindling a fire or extinguishing it; no demolishing; building or assembling (can't even open an umbrella, pitch a tent); marking; finishing; smoothing/polishing; slaughtering (except deadly snakes); writing or erasing; shopping; cooking, baking, washing (doing laundry); sewing; tearing; knotting (but you can tie a bow!); untying a permanent knot; plowing; planting (even watering); kneading; spinning; dyeing; chainstitching (crocheting & knitting); no selecting (picking out bad berries or bones/fish).

**1 - Luke 4:33–41 & Mark 1:21-34** – In synagogue, Jesus heals a man from a demon who identifies Jesus as the “Holy One of God.” After teaching in the synagogue, goes to Simon’s home – heals ma-in-law. She waits on them.

No mention of a problem/confrontation. 2d was in private home.

This is very early in His ministry, in Capernaum.

**Mark 1:32** – “That evening after sunset the people brought to Jesus all the sick and demon-possessed.”

**Jewish Sabbath** - sunset on Friday to nightfall of the following day

**Gen. 1:5** - God called the light “day,” and the darkness he called “night.” And there was evening, and there was morning—the first day.”

**Capernaum** – town open to Jesus. Hearts, minds... amazed by Him.

**3 - Mark 3:1–6 & Luke 6:6–10** - Jesus heals man with a deformed hand.

- Pharisees looking for a reason to get Jesus. **Would** he heal-Sabbath?
- **4** - Jesus asked them, “Which is lawful on the Sabbath: to do good or to do evil, to save life or to kill?” But they remained silent.
- Jesus was “deeply distressed at their stubborn hearts”
- **Luke 6: 11** - “But the Pharisees and the teachers of the law were furious” **Mark** says: After this, they began plotting to kill Jesus.

Religious leaders so critical of Jesus, they missed the miracle.

They could have had a **celebration**, instead, they start **conspiracy**.

Use a laser focus on a small rule, they created ... missed freedom.

We tend to make it harder. Jesus said it's about love.

His love set a man free; New life. Hand restored.

When Jesus healed on the Sabbath, He challenged traditions.

- Drew **arbitrary lines** in sand: could “work” to help an animal. Ox/ditch
- Our interpretations aren't nearly as important as spirit of God's law.
- The Sabbath was meant to benefit people as well as to glorify God: “Sabbath was made for man, not man for the Sabbath” (**Mark 2:27**).
  - Sabbath helps us **recuperate** (mentally & physically) after a week of work & **redirect** focus from daily routine to God. Jesus did that!

**This story gives us some truth:**

- There will be people who pick apart all we do. Judgmental.
  - o Be a God pleaser, not a people pleaser; we'll never please em all
- God knows our hearts, our motives, intentions. People don't.
  - o Serve God, honor Him, do good ... don't worry about the rest.
- Don't be stubborn. Don't refuse to re-evaluate what u believe.
  - o Pharisees constantly question... never satisfied w/ answer
- Picking apart others... you'll miss the joy of God's hand at work.

**4 - Luke 13:10–17** – Woman who was bent over, couldn't straighten – 18 yrs.

- Jesus put his hands on her, immediately she was healed.
- **14** Indignant because Jesus had healed on the Sabbath, the synagogue leader said to the people, "There are six days for work. So come and be healed on those days, not on the Sabbath."
- Jesus calls them hypocrites! You untie your donkey, lead it from stall and give it water... shouldn't she also "be set free"?

The Church is a place for healing. It's a hospital for the sick.

Here, there should be no judgment, no indignation . . . celebration.

We need to bring in the sick. The lost need to be found.

### **Closing Thoughts:**

- Time to evaluate our lines . . . are we focused on what's unimportant?
- Are we paying attention to the "**words in red**"? or drawing lines?
- Do these lines divide & separate . . . or draw us together (unity)?
- Lines in the sand . . . make churches divide. I'm Right ...

Jesus' words & actions remind us - He wants to heal us, restore...

[Song of the week](#) – "Truth Be Told"