Introduction: Jesus was often criticized for talking to the wrong people. He spoke to women in public; He had a tax collector following Him, a zealot was one of His followers. But the most common criticism of Jesus was breaking the Sabbath. We want to look at those instances and Jesus' reaction to them.

**I) The Law On The Sabbath**

**A) Leviticus 23.3 Sabbath was a day of solemn rest**

1. Goes back to the Garden of Eden and God resting after six days of creation

2. Not until the Ten Commandments was given on Mount Sinai was this commanded.

3. Breaking the Sabbath was punishable by stoning, **Numbers 15.32**

**B) The Jews had to determine work**

1. They had a list of 39 things that violated the Sabbath.

2. Things such as writing, sowing, travel, etc. if done in excess would be work.

**II) Jesus And The Sabbath**

**A) Mark 3.1-5 Man with the withered hand (Matthew 12.9-14; Luke 6.6-11)**

1. Notice that it was "their synagogue" and this was another Sabbath.

a. Withered hand -- dried up, to be parched. Luke says it was his right hand.

2. Jesus asked what they thought. This was their chance to explain what they thought, but they choose to remain silent.

a. Jesus' question gave two choices; to do good or to do evil.

b. **James 4.17** to not do good is to do evil.

3. It is one thing to criticize another but another thing to explain what is right or wrong.

a. There are a lot of back seat drivers but we need to know what to do.

b. Is it OK to break the law as long as others are silent? NO.

**B) Luke 13.10-16 woman with infirmity**

1. The answer was probably based on **Lev. 23.3**

2. Jesus response, What about compassion?

a. My papal would never work on Sunday until the tobacco fell in the barn or it came time for his wife to cook food.

b. He understood a principle of necessity. What is necessary was OK but nothing more.

3. God demands mercy, **Matthew 9.13.**

a. Can we break the law as long as it is out of mercy or love? No

b. But the law does not exclude love and mercy.

**C) John 5.1-10, 16-17**

1. Jesus equates Himself with deity

2. Who is going to accuse deity of sin?

3. The argument goes on to **John 7.21-23**

a. Circumcision was allowed according to the Law of Moses, **Lev. 12.3**

b. To circumcision a child on the Sabbath was not sinful but fulfilling the law.

4. Never pit one part of the Bible against another part of the Bible.

5. Anytime we interpret the law so God is wrong we are wrong, **John 7.24**

**D) Mark 2.25-28 (Also Matthew 12.1-8; Luke 6.1-5)**

1. They impugned what Jesus' disciples did with Jesus.

2. It was unlawful to harvest on the Sabbath, **Exodus 34.21**

3. Case of David.

a. What David did was unlawful, **v. 26, 1 Samuel 21.6**

b. Jesus affirms neither He nor His disciples broke the Sabbath

c. Jesus questions their consistency. Jesus as "Lord of the Sabbath" knew its purpose and when it was violated.

4) As the Son of Man, He had the authority over the Sabbath**, v. 27-28**

a. God does not have to explain to man why He says to do something (Marching around walls of Jericho, baptism, Sunday worship, etc)

b. The Sabbath was made for man's benefit, a day of rest. Not intended to enslave man, they were forgetting the purpose of the law. (Ritualism is wrong)

**III) Consistency Is Expected**

**A) Inconsistency shows intellectual dishonesty or ignorance**

1. A person that is honest will either change their doctrine or practice.

2. Ill. women not allowed to say anything in the church building cannot sing in the building or confess Christ in the building.

**B) Others can see our inconsistencies.**

1. Our children, neighbors, friends see it.

2. Ill. Amish who believed it was wrong to drive a car could drive a tractor.

**C) We must be consistent with our use of God's word.**

**Conclusion: A consistent person will not just say "Lord, Lord" but they will do the will of their Father in heaven. Are you doing to will of God in your life?**