

## Free to live the way we were created to live

After Jesus finished his time with Matthew and the other publicans, concluding that it is the sick who need a physician.

He is the remedy for sin. **(That is why he came the first time, to pay for our sins and bring redemption. To make us well!)**

Today, just like in the past, there are groups out there that do different religious rituals and by doing them, they think that this is what is making them well.

Ephesians 2:8–10 (ESV)

<sup>8</sup>For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God,

<sup>9</sup>not a result of works, so that no one may boast.

<sup>10</sup>For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.

- Abraham and David were made righteous by their trust in God's word and His promises.
- The Pharisees and other groups took what was to preach the gospel of the coming Messiah and turned things into religious practices and rules. (Works)

1. Serving God is not a funeral, it is a celebration! (Note, this next segment is not just the Pharisees but also the disciples of John.) **There was a lot of religiosity and not enough worship!**

Mark 2:18–22 (ESV)

<sup>18</sup>Now John's disciples and the Pharisees were fasting. And people came and said to him, "Why do John's disciples and the disciples of the Pharisees fast, but your disciples do not fast?"

<sup>19</sup>And Jesus said to them, "Can the wedding guests fast while the bridegroom is with them? As long as they have the bridegroom with them, they cannot fast.

<sup>20</sup>The days will come when the bridegroom is taken away from them, and then they will fast in that day.

<sup>21</sup>No one sews a piece of unshrunk cloth on an old garment. If he does, the patch tears away from it, the new from the old, and a worse tear is made.

<sup>22</sup>And no one puts new wine into old wineskins. If he does, the wine will burst the skins—and the wine is destroyed, and so are the skins. But new wine is for fresh wineskins."

- a.) Guests. There was a special relationship with God and the disciples of John were a part of this covenant.
- b.) Jesus is the bridegroom of the church and that wedding will take place in heaven. There will be many honored guests, which many of the OT saints will be there.

**(Here are some of them and they don't understand what John did. Jesus is the Messiah!)**

- c.) Next Jesus is introducing something new is happening. **(He is not there to just do religious practices.)**
- When we are born again, we aren't getting patched up! We are being covered in His righteousness.
  - We are committed to Jesus, not just patched up. (He was alluding to what was becoming of the religious practices.)
  - We know that when He built His church, that it would be the way in which the truth of salvation would go forth. **(None of the tainting of works, and none of the loss of emphasis of The source of salvation!)**
- d.) He was telling them that they had lost their way, and salvation is always new and the way that worship takes place!
- e.) He was not going to pour into something that was at the end of its use and frankly tainted by man. (He was going to pour into the gospel, in relationship with church.)
- f.) He was telling all these people something that they didn't quite understand yet.
- **Jesus was going to fulfill the gospel, make people new, and put on righteousness on a born-again person, and then He would return to His throne.**
2. Serving Jesus is not burdensome, it is life giving! - (The sabbath was for Israel to rest from slavery in Egypt, not to become a further burden.)

Matthew 11:28–30 (ESV)

<sup>28</sup>Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.

<sup>29</sup>Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls.

<sup>30</sup>For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light."

- When Jesus saves us, He takes the burden of sin from us and it frees our souls. (The burden of sin is removed!)

Mark 2:23–28 (ESV)

<sup>23</sup>One Sabbath he was going through the grainfields, and as they made their way, his disciples began to pluck heads of grain.

<sup>24</sup>And the Pharisees were saying to him, "Look, why are they doing what is not lawful on the Sabbath?"

<sup>25</sup>And he said to them, "Have you never read what David did, when he was in need and was hungry, he and those who were with him:

<sup>26</sup>how he entered the house of God, in the time of Abiathar the high priest, and ate the bread of the Presence, which it is not lawful for any but the priests to eat, and also gave it to those who were with him?"

<sup>27</sup>And he said to them, "The Sabbath was made for man, not man for the Sabbath.

<sup>28</sup>So the Son of Man is lord even of the Sabbath.”

- a. Jesus also says that He is the Lord of the Sabbath. (He is the maker of it!)
- b. He knows what He made it for, and salvation is the ultimate rest!
  - The Pharisees were always looking for something to show their superiority with. (This is not what serving Jesus is about, it is to free them.)
  - **I don't worry about "thou shalt nots" when I am depending on Jesus. He will not fail.**

### conclusion

Mark 3:1–6 (ESV)

<sup>1</sup>Again he entered the synagogue, and a man was there with a withered hand.

<sup>2</sup>And they watched Jesus, to see whether he would heal him on the Sabbath, so that they might accuse him.

<sup>3</sup>And he said to the man with the withered hand, “Come here.”

<sup>4</sup>And he said to them, “Is it lawful on the Sabbath to do good or to do harm, to save life or to kill?” But they were silent.

<sup>5</sup>And he looked around at them with anger, grieved at their hardness of heart, and said to the man, “Stretch out your hand.” He stretched it out, and his hand was restored.

<sup>6</sup>The Pharisees went out and immediately held counsel with the Herodians against him, how to destroy him.

- So, the religious leaders were scoping Jesus out!
- We are not here to show our superiority; we are to be on mission for the gospel.
- Their hardness of heart angered and grieved Jesus.

Romans 1:21–23 (ESV)

<sup>21</sup>For although they knew God, they did not honor him as God or give thanks to him, but they became futile in their thinking, and their foolish hearts were darkened.

<sup>22</sup>Claiming to be wise, they became fools,

<sup>23</sup>and exchanged the glory of the immortal God for images resembling mortal man and birds and animals and creeping things. (The things of God lowered to the level of a created creature.)

- Pride hardens hearts and blinds one towards sin and their need for Jesus.
- They did not answer Jesus because they did not care for the man, and certainly did not believe in the One who could save them from themselves.
- We need the freedom that Jesus can give. (Some realize it, while others think that are good, or even superior. Tragic)