



Message Discussion Guide Week of March 10, 2024

Message: Power Surge, Part 7: Goodness Overload

Key Scriptures: [Mark 2:23-3:6](#)

Preacher: Tom Parkinson

Message Highlights:

The old saying goes, “no good deed goes unpunished.”

- Jesus brought an overload of goodness to Galilee in the early days of his ministry, yet the Pharisees still plotted to kill him (Mark 3:6).

The Pharisees question Jesus when his disciples pick heads of grain to eat on the sabbath.

- By Jesus’ day, the practice of sabbath became a strict legalism.
- Over 1,521 activities were identified as “work” that could not be performed on the sabbath, including reaping and harvesting.

Jesus responds by sharing a time when David technically broke the law by eating consecrated bread, when he and his men were starving and running for their lives.

- Jesus’ point: human need supersedes ritual observance.
- There is a difference between the spirit of the law and the letter of the law.

Jesus declares that he is Lord of the Sabbath. The sabbath was given to humanity as a gift and is not to be turned into a burden.

Jesus initiates the healing of a man with a deformity in his hand on the sabbath day in the synagogue, knowing it will provoke the Pharisees.

- William Barclay reflected on this moment, writing, “If ever the performance of a man’s religion stops him from helping someone in need, his religion is not religion at all.”
- As followers of Christ, it is easy for us to become consumed by minutia – to “major in the minors.”
- Christ calls us to not let anything stand in the way of our primary duties – to love God and neighbor.

Discussion Questions:

- 1.) The old saying goes, “no good deed goes unpunished.” Have you ever done something good and suffered for it? Why does the world work this way? Why do those who do good sometimes suffer and those who do evil sometimes prosper?
- 2.) Why are the Pharisees so threatened by Jesus? What causes them to see all the good things that he is doing as bad?
- 3.) What is the difference between the spirit of the law and the letter of the law? How can we adhere to the spirit of God’s law without becoming slaves to the letter of the law?
- 4.) [Read Mark 2:23-3:6](#)
 - a. Why do the Pharisees consider it unlawful for the disciples to pick grain on the sabbath day?
 - b. What is Jesus’ reason for telling the story about David (from 1 Sam 21:1-6)?
 - c. What does Jesus’ statement in verses 27-28 mean? How would the Pharisees have reacted to that statement?
 - d. Why does Jesus ask the man with the shriveled hand to stand in front of everyone?
 - e. Why does Jesus become angry? Is his anger justified?
 - f. Why does the healing push the Pharisees to begin plotting how they can kill Jesus?
- 5.) Have you ever witnessed a moment when the practices of religion get in the way of helping people? Why does this happen?
- 6.) When you consider our church, what are some of the ways that we can do good and make a difference in our community? Are there particular items or issues that could distract us from doing good?
- 7.) What is your primary takeaway from this message?