

MARK

Mark Wk.8
Mk. 2:23-28

General:

- Have you ever been in a situation where someone in authority told you to go one way, but everything in you thought you should go another? What did you do?
- When you hear the word 'Sabbath', what comes to mind? What does Sabbath (or rest) actually look like in your life right now?
- The Sabbath was a major identity marker for the religious leaders. What do you think people today tend to point to as evidence that someone is "a real Christian"?
- In the Old Testament, God made provision for people to eat from others' fields in times of need. What does that reveal about God's heart? How does it challenge the way you view your own possessions?
- Where do you see people today elevating their interpretation of Scripture to the level of Scripture itself?
- Pastor Chip said: "Interpretation is not the same thing as inspiration." How do you make that distinction? And why is that distinction so important when it comes to understanding the Bible?

- Jesus consistently elevates humanity over rigid rule-keeping. Where do you see that tension play out in your own life or in the church today?
- In verse 28, Jesus claims authority as “Lord of the Sabbath.” What stands out to you about that statement?

Take Home 1: Are there areas where we could be guilty of weaponizing obedience? (Mk. 2:24)

- What do you think is the real-life difference between healthy obedience and using righteousness to control or judge others?
- What do the spiritual disciplines (prayer, Scripture reading, fasting, etc.) look like in your life? Are they forming you, or are they something you rely on to define you?
- Where do you feel the temptation to create distance between yourself and others based on spiritual performance or behavior?

Take Home 2: Do we have the ability to see need as a valid theological category? (Mk. 2:25)

- Where in your life have you learned to prioritize principle over need or compassion?
- How do you tend to view people who live, think, or believe differently than you—more as interruptions, or as opportunities to love?
- If Jesus was willing to give His life to meet your need, how should that shape the way you see and respond to people in need around you?

Take Home 3: Understanding the foundational aspect of God’s law (Mk. 2:27)

- Pastor Chip emphasized: “Human flourishing is built into the foundational framework of God’s law.” How does that shift your perspective on commands in the OT that might feel restrictive?
- Do you genuinely believe that God’s commands are for your good? Where do you find yourself resisting that idea?
- How might your relationship with God change if you began to see His commands less as restrictions and more as invitations to life?

Take Home 4: The extraordinary authority of Christ being presented to us (Mk. 2:28)

- What do you think it means, practically, that Jesus is “Lord of the Sabbath”? What does He actually have authority over in your life?
- If Jesus challenged a deeply held belief, habit, or value in your life, how do you think you would respond?
- Reflect on your own life and everyday decisions. Where does it seem like Jesus has authority? Where does it seem like He doesn’t?