

Sabbath-breaking: The Last Straw **Mark 2:23-3:6**

Intensifying conflict with the religious leaders reaches a climactic point after Jesus “breaks the Sabbath” twice. Result = plot to kill Jesus, 3:6.

Harvesting on the Sabbath results in criticism of Jesus, 2:23-28

- ◆ Sabbath was a time to rest (Ex. 20:8-11, 31:12-17) Work or meal preparation was to precede the Sabbath; but Pharisees added more rules.
- ◆ Why the appeal to David taking consecrated bread in I Sam. 21:1-6? Note parallel and later connections w/David, 10:47, 12:35-37.
- ◆ Authority appealed to (*Lord of Sabbath*), recall 2:10. Cf. Matt. 12:6.

Healing on the Sabbath results in a conspiracy against Jesus, 3:1-6

- ◆ See Matt. 12:10-12 for Pharisees' questions plus hypothetical accident.
- ◆ Sabbath conflicts apparently occur frequently: Lk. 13:10-17, 14:1-6.
- ◆ After the many questions directed at Jesus (2:7,16,18,24), now He asks a question that amazingly stumps them. Watch their ironic response!
- ◆ Mark highlights Jesus' emotive response; Luke notes Pharisees', 6:11.
- ◆ Wow! Can you see how this truly great miraculous healing for this man seems to be anticlimactic!

IN BOTH ESPISODES . . .

Jesus' answers ≠ attack Pharisees rigid / ridiculous rules as in 7:1-13.
Jesus' answers = attacks inconsistency in applying rules and ignoring moments when rules must be suspended for the sake of mercy and a greater cause (cf. Matt. 12:7 / 9:13).



*What might we we need to ever remember about rules?

*How might this situation affect how we think about ethical conflict that might pop up?

