

God's Servant Opposed

Mark 2:23-3:12

"For truly, I say to you, if you have faith like a grain of mustard seed, you will say to this mountain, 'Move from here to there,' and it will move, and nothing will be impossible for you." (Matthew 17:20 [ESV](#))

Main Idea: God gives each of us one day out of seven to refresh our soul and to engage Him in His mission. When we receive this gift in faith, God uses it to perform miracles in our lives. When we refuse this gift, we forfeit more than we can imagine.

Sabbath Truths That Bring Us Joy

Truth #1: Jesus is the Lord of the Sabbath. Mark 2:28

Truth: We look to the LORD to affirm or deny the goodness of our actions, choices and priorities. We do not look to men. We have an audience of One. If we are obedient to God's Word, our consciences are free from the constraints of pleasing anyone but Him.

Application: Is Jesus the Lord of your Sabbath? Is he the one who governs what you do with this day?

He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation. For by him all things were created, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—all things were created through him and for him. And he is before all things, and in him all things hold together." (Colossians 1:15-17 [ESV](#))

Truth: The place to begin any significant life change is with prayerful meditation upon the Lordship of Jesus. Only the force of Jesus Lordship is strong enough to drive spiritual change that separates us from sin and to God.

because, if you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For with the heart one believes and is justified, and with the mouth one confesses and is saved." (Romans 10:9-10 [ESV](#))

Truth #2: Jesus gives the Sabbath to refresh us.

Truth: God gives us freedom on one day out of seven to set aside our day-to-day focus on work in the garden to give us room to refresh our souls . . . to reorder

our lives . . . to think about our priorities and our direction . . . to do good to others.

Obstacles that Stand in the Way of Sabbath Refreshment

Obstacle #1: Externalism.

Obstacle #2: Neglect of assembling together.

Obstacle #3: Disregard for the day.

Obstacle #4: Selfish orientation.

Obstacle #5: Forfeiting the agency over our life. Obstacle

#6: External chaos.

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“And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near.” (Hebrews 10:24–25 ESV)

Truth #3: Jesus performs miracles in us on the Sabbath.

Truth: Unbelief focuses the mind on the personal offense of Jesus’ claims to Lordship and makes a person blind to His glory. The person who wants to reject Jesus’ Lordship will always find a reason to overlook His power and His mercy.

Truth: Jesus loves to do miracles in us and for us on the Sabbath. We have more than a withered hand, we often have withered hearts. We need Jesus to make us whole and He invites us to use our Sabbaths to come to Him and allow Him to perform miracles of revival for us.

Truth: We do not reject externalism because it is too zealous for righteousness. We reject externalism because it makes us blind to true righteousness.

Application: Pray, “Jesus, you are the Lord of MY Sabbath. How would you have me use this day to refresh my soul and fuel joy in my worship of You?”