

Sermon Notes:

Mark 3:1-6 (NLT)

Sabbath was the last day of the week, on Saturday. It was a day set aside for rest and reflection. A day set aside for God, where no work was permitted.

By the time of Jesus the Sabbath had evolved into a badge of “jewish-ness” for them.

- The sabbath had become a weapon for the religious leaders.
- It was something that held people down rather than something that freed them.

Is it possible for us to get so caught up with rules (what we consider to be right and wrong), that we miss out on God's ultimate goal of restorative love?

The old set of rules that was established through Moses ended up turning into something it was never meant to be. Jesus came not to just refocus our eyes, but he came to fulfill those old set of rules and give us something brand new as the old faded away.

- It was new but not easier. It doesn't allow us to just follow a set of rules, but it causes us to ask.....”**what is the way of love?**”

2 Corinthians 3:6 (NLT)

Do you allow offence to block your view of Jesus?

(We too can get too caught up and offended by all sorts of things in regards to Christianity, the church, that we miss out on the good things of Jesus)

What distracts you or offends you about Christianity, the church?

In Doing Good, What Response are you Expecting?

(Jesus always calls us out to do good, but he never promises us the outcome. Sometimes doing good can be interpreted as evil.)

Sometimes when we get a negative response from doing good we just want to give up, “If that is way they are going to react them forget it. Never again will I put myself out there”.

But Jesus calls us to love and serve despite the negative responses that might come our way.

Life Group Discussion

Warm Up: (feel free to use any or all of these questions)

1. What are some rules you had growing up in your house that you can remember?
What did discipline look like?
2. What stood out to you about Sunday's Sermon? What was interesting? Confusing? Weird? Thought provoking?

Study & Discussion:

Read together Mark 3:1-6

In this week's passage we see Jesus act in a way that seemed to have broken an old testament law, but in reality he was living out the spirit of that law in a greater way than the Religious leaders realized.

- What was the purpose of the Sabbath law in the first place?
- Do you think it is possible to follow the spirit of the law regarding the balance of work and rest without it becoming a life choking rule?
- What does that look like for you?

Read Together Matthew 11:1-6

Why do you think that John the baptist doubted Jesus at this stage?

What causes people to doubt today?

What are some things you have seen or experienced that have caused you to doubt?
What is something that brings you back to faith?

Prayer:

1. Ask for individual prayer requests
2. Is there someone outside the group you would like prayer for?