



CAPITOL COMMISSION™

Jesus – Lord of the Sabbath II

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Tom McCullough / PO Box 503, Granville, OH. 43023/ tom.mccullough@capitolcom.org / www.capitolcom.org.

In the Gospel According to Luke (AD 60-61), Luke, a gentile, is writing to Theophilus so that he would know the exact truth and record regarding the things he had been taught about Jesus the Messiah. Luke provided numerous testimonies of Jesus' identity as the Savior and Messiah. Capernaum became Jesus' unofficial ministry headquarters. As was His custom, Jesus was in the synagogue on the Sabbath, reading scripture and teaching. Jesus, during His ministry, traveled to many cities forgiving sin and physically healing people of demons and disease. Jesus began to call His apostles, challenge rituals and shared the Kingdom of God.

“On another Sabbath He entered the synagogue and was teaching; and there was a man there whose right hand was withered. The scribes and the Pharisees were watching Him closely to see if He healed on the Sabbath, so that they might find reason to accuse Him. But He knew what they were thinking, and He said to the man with the withered hand, “Get up and come forward!” And he got up and came forward. And Jesus said to them, “I ask you, is it lawful to do good or to do harm on the Sabbath, to save a life or to destroy it?” After looking around at them all, He said to him, “Stretch out your hand!” And he did so; and his hand was restored. But they themselves were filled with rage, and discussed together what they might do to Jesus.”(Luke 6: 6-11 NASB)

Sabbath in the synagogue. Many times the Gospel writers would describe Jesus' custom on the Sabbath in the phrase, as was His custom. It was Jesus' custom to be in the synagogue on the Sabbath teaching and healing. In all of the examples that Luke, Matthew and Mark provide of Jesus and His activities on the Sabbath, all are filled with love, compassion, kindness and mercy rather than ritual and ceremony.

Pharisees and scribes watching and plotting against Jesus.

Luke describes that the Pharisees were looking for violations to accuse Jesus. The Pharisees wanted to see Him heal so that they could get rid of Him, rather than believe in Him. The Pharisees were a form of Sabbatarians. Sabbatarians were people that believed and rigidly observed and enforced the Sabbath. This strict view of the Sabbath contends that people should refrain and abstain from all activity on the Sabbath, except for certain activities that are necessary for life and based upon and understanding of OT law.

Jesus knew their mind. Jesus was challenging the Pharisee's rigid and strict view of the Sabbath. Additionally, Jesus knew the Pharisees were tracking and observing Him. Jesus knew that they were waiting for Him to do something that the Pharisees believed to be against the law of the Sabbath. Jesus did what He was called to do and what they waited for Him to do. Jesus healed a man's hand on the Sabbath. The healing of this man's hand, in the minds of the Pharisee's and scribes, was an activity that was not permitted by Sabbath law under their strict understanding of observance of the Sabbath.

Jesus heals and teaches. Teaching was Jesus' priority. To teach Jesus shared love, compassion, kindness, mercy, grace, and the Kingdom of God. Luke records that Jesus asked a question of the Pharisees, questions that have nothing but a correct answer and ones that they, the Pharisees cannot answer without compromising their beliefs.

Jesus asked if it was lawful to do good (healing) or harm to save (a life) or destroy on the Sabbath? Jesus as the Lord over the Sabbath had the ability to physically heal and save a life but also, more importantly, to heal them from their sins and save them from an eternal separation from God.

The Pharisees were enraged and conspired against Jesus. While Luke records that they were filled with rage and discussed what to do with Jesus, the Gospel of Matthew records that the Pharisees conspired against Jesus and plotted how to destroy Him (Mt12:14). In the Gospel of Mark, additional detail is provided describing the Pharisees immediately beginning to conspire with the Herodians as to how to destroy Jesus. Herodians were a secular political group that supported Herod and Rome and generally were opposed to the activities of the Pharisees. However, both the Pharisees and the Herodians wanted Jesus destroyed, so they joined forces.

Jesus is Lord of the Sabbath!

For Your Consideration:

- Is your Sabbath one of strict observances to refrain from all activity?
- Is your Sabbath one that includes acts and activities of love, mercy, kindness, grace, rest and refreshment?
- Is Jesus the Lord of your Sabbath?

BIBLE STUDIES

LEGISLATORS: SESSION OR HEARING WEDNESDAYS AT 7:30AM, STATEHOUSE RM. 44

STAFF, LOBBYISTS AND CAPITOL SQUARE COMMUNITY: WEDNESDAYS AT NOON, STATEHOUSE RM.44