**Follow – The Gospel of Mark - Wk 7 - Scandalous 2**

**The Gospel = amazing life changing news!**

**God thru Jesus redeems & restores mankind to the creator.**

**The search and the cry of every heart is found in the 4 gospels.**

**John Mark – The first and fast paced / action packed.**

**Mark focuses on the responses of others to Jesus – good and bad.**

**Mark 8:34 Then he called the crowd to him along with his disciples and said: "Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me.**

**Who is the real Jesus? How would he respond to what is happening around us today? Different responses…**

**Two things to remember when reading about Jesus:**

**1. The way Jesus treated people then, is the way that He treats us now**

**2. The way Jesus treated people then, is the way that He expects us to treat people now. \*\* Jo 20:21 As the father sent me, I send you.**

**Last wk- 2 of 4 clashes with Pharisees that lead to the plot to kill Jesus. The man everyone loved – turns scandalous.**

**Scandal (Controversy) 1 – You hang out with undesirables**

**Jesus responds - I came for those who know they are sick and lost. They hated the Jesus – friend of sinners.**

**Scandal (Controversy) 2 – You don’t follow our traditions**

**Jesus responds - I came to do something new, not patch something old. They hated the Jesus - here to change us**

**4 confrontations - 2 more today- Mark 2:23 One Sabbath Jesus was going through the grainfields, and as his disciples walked along, they began to pick some heads of grain. 24 The Pharisees said to him, “Look, why are they doing what is unlawful on the Sabbath?”**

**Scandal (Controversy) 3 – You defy our instructions**

**You disregard and ignore our religious laws and demands**

**Understanding the Sabbath / Shabbat (lit. rest from labor – day of rest) Gen 1 - 6 days of creation and 7 day (Saturday) they were to rest.**

**Commanded in the 10 commandments**

**The Sabbath was commanded by God as a day of rest, reflection, relaxation, restoration, and recreation.**

**Why they say it is unlawful - They had added a list of do’s & don’ts. Not to do anything that day. No work, prepare meals, errands - Nothing.**

**By the Pharisees- guilty of 4 crimes to the Pharisees: Reaping, threshing, winnowing, and preparing food.**

**Jesus Had 3 Responses**

**Mark 2:25 He answered, “Have you never read what David did when he and his companions were hungry and in need? 26 In the days of Abiathar the high priest, he entered the house of God and ate the consecrated bread, which is lawful only for priests to eat. And he also gave some to his companions.”**

**1. I did not break the Sabbath – Just like David didn’t break God’s law**

**Jesus did not violate or break the Sabbath or ever approve of his disciples to do so. You are not to do business on your sabbath.**

**But he did break their additions to God’s word – and even at times deliberately did it in front of the religious.**

**\*\* Do not twist God’s word to match your agenda or opinion.**

**(John 12:48 – we are judged by the Word of God / Jesus words alone)**

**What matters is what the Bibles actually says.**

**Mark 2:27 Then he said to them, “The Sabbath was made for man, not man for the Sabbath.**

**2. You turned a gift of freedom into bondage and guilt.**

**Commanded by God as a day of rest, reflection, relaxation, restoration, and recreation – a joy to embrace – but they made it a terrible burden.**

**They had turned the gift into guilt.**

**A couple things to consider about the Shabbat**

**\*\* You are no longer under the law – we are not saved or judged according to our following of a sabbath.**

**The purpose of the OT law – is to reveal sin. It cannot save us or keep us. The 10 commandments reveal the character and expectations of God. God’s standards.**

**Romans 3:23 - But all have sinned and fallen short or Gods standards. We cannot win by following the commands- we just can’t do it.**

**That is why we need Jesus so much!**

**Matthew 5:17 “Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I have not come to abolish them but to fulfill them. 18 For truly I tell you, until heaven and earth disappear, not the smallest letter, not the least stroke of a pen, will by any means disappear from the Law until everything is accomplished.**

**When was it accomplished or finished? John 19:30 Jesus said, “It is finished.” / Matt 27:50-51 – temple veil torn – old system was over.**

**What the law could not accomplish – Jesus did.**

**\*\*\* The Sabbath is in many ways is ultimately a foreshadowing of the cross – that after the work of God is finished you will find rest!**

**\*\* You need the Shabbat – you need a day of rest. When you don’t have it – you can’t bare it. Life that is. It is a gift for mankind as a day of rest, reflection, relaxation, restoration, and recreation.**

**God set it in place to help, protect, and care for you – not control you. What was intended to be as a blessing – some turn into bondage.**

**BTW – Sabbath is not necessarily designated a church day.**

**3rd response - 28 So the Son of Man is Lord even of the Sabbath.” (the trigger)**

**3. I can do what I want, I am God**

**I am the messiah, and I am Lord of the Sabbath and what my disciples did was not offensive to me at all.**

**As you can imagine this was a trigger for the Pharisees.**

**I am the messiah the promised savior - God in the flesh.**

**Mark 3:1** **Again he entered the synagogue, and a man was there with a withered hand. 2 And they watched Jesus, to see whether he would heal him on the Sabbath, so that they might accuse him.**

**3 And he said to the man with the withered hand, “Come here.” 4 And he said to them, “Is it lawful on the Sabbath to do good or to do harm, to save life or to kill?” But they were silent. 5 And he looked around at them with anger, grieved at their hardness of heart, and said to the man, “Stretch out your hand.” He stretched it out, and his hand was restored.**

**Scandal (Controversy) 4 – You make us look foolish and petty**

**You think you are better than us?! We are the holy ones!!**

**Jesus responds - It’s Always the Right Time to Do the Right Thing**

**The religious opposed Jesus while He was doing good on the Sabbath because it broke their manmade rules. The follower of Jesus must realize that it’s always the right time to do the right thing.**

**Religion is about rules, regulations, systems, and demands - Jesus is about relationships – Jesus is about people.**

**Mark 3:6 The Pharisees went out and immediately held counsel with the Herodians against him, how to destroy him.**

**You accuse us of not caring for people – we’ll show you by killing you. Hypocrites = you break laws we will murder you**

**Herodian’s - Jewish people who benefit from Rome Considered liberal Pharisees – strict Jewish religious leaders – considered conservative**

**Social/ political enemies working together = plot to kill Jesus. How could this group of people who loved God’s word and were so committed to it, become so filled with hate?**

**What turns followers into pharisees**

**How well-Intended zeal can go bad**

* **When we start to add extra rules to God’s rules**

**Proverbs 30:5-6/ Matthew 15:7-9/ Colossians 2:20-23/ Romans 14:1-5**

**Prov 30 – every word is flawless – do not add to God’s words**

**Matt 15 – people who honor w/ their lips but follow human rules/ traditions**

**Col 2 and Rom 14 – condemns those who add rule upon rule to be holy**

* **When we major on the minors**

**Matthew 23:23-24/ 1 Corinthians 11:17-19/ 1 Timothy 1:3-7**

**Matt 22 – you strain a gnat, but swallow a camel. You tithe down to every spice - but neglect the weighted bigger things – justice, mercy, faithfulness**

* **When we start using the Bible as binoculars instead of a mirror**

**Matthew 7:2-5/ Romans 2:1-4/ James 1:23-25**

**Matthew 7 - the plank in your eye – the speck in another’s**

**James 1 – those who like to point it out, but do not do themselves**

* **When we start to love rules and tradition more than people.**

**Mark 2:27 & 3:4-5/ 1 Corinthians 8:1-3/ Matthew 23:1-4 & 23-24/ Revelation 2:1-7**

**Turning the binoculars into a bazooka ready to plow people down.**

**We can stand for truth and purity and still love people.**

**We can do what is right without neglecting God’s commands.**

**Two things to remember when reading about Jesus:**

**1. Way Jesus treated people then = the way that He treats us now**

**2. Way Jesus treated people then = way that He expects us to treat…**

**V5 – Jesus was grieved over their hard hearts. How is your heart?**

**Are you guilty of the same things as the Pharisees?**