

SERIES: MARK: THE BEST NEWS EVER!!

Message: Jesus Against Dead Religion!

Text: Mark 2:18-3:6

September 29th, 2024, Heritage Church

BIG IDEA: Jesus CONFRONTS and CORRECTS False Religion.

1. BEWARE OF SUBSTITUTING RELIGION FOR RELATIONSHIP!

A. Should You FAST?

Mark 2:18 *“Now John’s disciples and the Pharisees were fasting. And people came and said to him, “Why do John’s disciples and the disciples of the Pharisees fast, but your disciples do not fast?”*

B. CELEBRATE while Jesus is Here, FAST after!

Mark 2:19-20 ... the bridegroom will be forcibly removed ...
¹⁹ *Jesus said to them, “The wedding guests cannot fast while the groom is with them, can they? As long as they have the groom with them, they cannot fast. ²⁰ But the time will come when **the groom will be** (forcibly) **taken away** from them, and then **they will fast** on that day.*

C. This Only Works When We Become NEW CREATIONS

in Jesus. We must leave behind legalism. Romans 14:17

Mark 2:21-22 ²¹ *No one sews a patch of unshrunk cloth on an old garment. Otherwise, the new patch pulls away from the old cloth, and a worse tear is made. ²² And no one puts new wine into old wineskins. Otherwise, the wine will burst the skins, and the wine is lost as well as the skins. No, new wine is put into fresh wineskins.”*

See **2 Corinthians 5:17** *“If anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; ... behold, all things have become new.”*

2. LET JESUS REIGN OVER YOUR SABBATH CELEBRATION.

A. Cast Down Man-Made RULES.

Mark 2:23-27 ²³ *On the Sabbath he was going through the grainfields, and his disciples began to make their way, picking some heads of grain. ²⁴ The Pharisees said to him, “Look, why are they doing what is not lawful on the Sabbath?” ²⁵ He said to them, “Have you never read what David and those who were with him did when he was in need and hungry — ²⁶ how he entered the house of God in the time of Abiathar the high priest and ate the bread of the Presence — which is not lawful for anyone to eat except the priests — and also gave some to his companions?” ²⁷ Then he told them, “The Sabbath was made for man and not man for the Sabbath. ²⁸ **So then, the Son of Man is Lord even of the Sabbath.**”*

B. TRUE SABBATH GUIDELINES: 1) Stop, 2) Rest, 3) Contemplate, 4) Delight

C. Bless People in the Power of the Spirit on the Sabbath!

Mark 3:1-6 ³ *Jesus entered the synagogue again, and a man was there who had a shriveled hand. ² In order to accuse him, they were watching him closely to see whether he would heal him on the Sabbath. ³ He told the man with the shriveled hand, “Stand before us.” ⁴ Then he said to them, “**Is it lawful to do good on the Sabbath or to do evil, to save life or to kill?**” But they were silent. ⁵ After looking around at them with anger, he was grieved at the hardness of their hearts and told the man, “**Stretch out your hand.**” So he stretched it out, and his hand was **restored**. ⁶ Immediately the Pharisees went out and started plotting with the Herodians against him, how they might kill him. **Acts 4:29-32** God, “stretch out your hand ... heal*

ACTION STEP: Stretch out your hand ... Ask Jesus to heal and strengthen your relationship with Him.