

## Sermon on 7 May 2017

**Theme: Jesus is the Lord of the Sabbath.**

Bible: Mark 2:27 – 3:6

Preached by Je Cheol Cook

Let us pray. Almighty God! Thank you for your grace. I am preaching about the message of God based on the book of Mark. Help us to understand what this means and apply it into our lives. Help us to meet with our Lord Jesus. He is the Lord of the Sabbath. As your servant, please use me as your mediator. Allow me to speak your word with power and confidence. Thank you, Lord, I pray in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, Amen.

**Today, I will be talking to you about our topic, ‘Jesus is the Lord of the Sabbath’.** We believe that Jesus is our Lord and Saviour, and we commit ourselves to him. Jesus is the Lord of the Sabbath. Believers of Christ make Lord’s day holy. It is Sundays, our Lord Jesus was sent into this world to save his people from their sins. He died and was resurrected on the third day. As believers of Jesus, we are to live and work for our Lord Jesus at all times. When we look at the history of the church, we see that a Roman emperor named Constantine accepted Christianity as a national religion. Since then, believers of Christ have regarded Sunday as Lord’s day. And they have kept the day holy. I will be reading Mark 3:4, “Then Jesus asked them, ‘which is lawful on the Sabbath: to do good or to do evil, to save life or to kill?’” As our Lord said, we should keep the Sabbath holy. We need to make sure why our Lord Jesus said like that. What does this mean? How can you apply this into your lives?

*Have you ever seen the movie titled Titanic?* How was the movie? I watched the movie with my wife when we were in South Korea. I really enjoyed the movie. I think that you know the story very well. A lady fell in love with a man. As you know, the movie tells us about the situation in those days. It deals with the life between the poor and the rich. They were different. They were separated. And, they were divided. Today, lives are totally different from those in the days of the movie. But still in our society we see that there are big difference between the rich and the poor. In the movie, there was a man, who was willing to go to a church. But the man was not allowed. He was rejected to attend the church. Why? Because only the rich were allowed in the church. The church opened the door for the higher class. Sadly, he was not allowed to go there because he belonged to the low class.

This year we celebrate the 500<sup>th</sup> Reformation. About 500 years ago, a group of reformers were fighting against the Catholic church. The church was selling the indulgence. The Catholic church taught that people were to buy the indulgence to get to heaven. To get salvation, they were taught to buy a ticket. The teaching was against the law of God. Our Lord said that the righteous would live by faith. Romans 3:28 says, “a man is justified by faith apart from observing the law.” We are saved by faith in Jesus Christ. He gave his life to save his people from their sins. We don’t have to buy any ticket to go to heaven. This is because our Lord Jesus already paid for our sins and penalties. Our salvation is only possible through our Lord. This is the grace of God.

This is the gospel. It is the good news about Jesus Christ. The gospel has given us freedom and power to all of those who believe. Luke 4:18-19, "The Spirit of the Lord is on me, because he has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim freedom for the prisoners and recovery of sight for the blind, to set the oppressed free, to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor." Our Lord Jesus was sent into the world. He had given the good news to the poor. The poor means they are ignorant. They need the assistance of our Lord. Because they need spiritual food of Christ. Our Lord was sent to the world to give freedom for the prisoners. Romans 3:23 says, "all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God." All of us were sinners. Because of our sins, we couldn't do anything. We couldn't come to God. Our lives were so unhappy and miserable. But through our Lord Jesus, our sins were forgiven. We were given freedom. That is why we thank our Lord for what he has done for us.

**Look at our world. What is happening?** In this world, we see that there are so many unhappy things are happening such as wars, fighting, distress, despair and so on. However, our Lord has given us the message of hope. And the message has given us freedom.

I just want to share with you about my country, Korea. The country was divided into two countries between the North and the South after the Korean war in 1953. Like other countries, there were severe conflicts between the poor and the rich. By Christianity, many believers of Christ changed the country in many ways. Like India, it has a system; the higher, the middle and lower class. But the system was abolished due to Christianity. In 1884, the Christianity came into the country. There were very few believers of Christ. Now the country has become a Christian country and sent many missionaries after the USA.

*How could this be possible?* Because our Lord Jesus has given the power and freedom. And many followed the word of God. They influenced their communities and countries.

**Look at the bible. Our Lord Jesus came into the world. He has given us freedom.** He has helped us what we are to in this world. He has taken all of our sicknesses, diseases and stresses. Look at the passage we were reading. Jesus came into a man, who suffered with his hands. He was in despair. He was having hard times. What did he want? He wanted to be healed. There were many around him. But there was none who could give him freedom. Nobody could heal the man.

You know the story of the woman, who was bleeding for 12 years. The bible says that she met with many medical doctors. But she was getting worse. Finally, she came to meet with Jesus and she was completely healed.

The man was having troubles, but there was no one who could help him. For the man, Jesus went there to see him. And Jesus healed the man. There were many Jewish people in those days. They were called Pharisees. Pharisees were one of religious groups. They thought that they devoted themselves to God. But they didn't truly follow the word of God. Furthermore, they accused Jesus.

The Pharisees thought that they followed the law of God, because they didn't do any work on the Sabbath. **What is the Sabbath? What does Sabbath day mean to you?** It originally comes from the Hebrew. It means stops. It means doesn't do any work. Exodus 20:8-10 says, "Remember the Sabbath day by keeping it holy. Six days you shall labor and do all your work, but the seventh day is a Sabbath to the Lord. On it you shall not do any work."

*The Jews didn't do any work on the Sabbath. What does this mean? How can you apply this into your lives?* We keep the Lord's day holy. It is Sunday. What should we do on the day? Are we supposed not to do any work? What did our Lord Jesus do on the Sabbath? He healed the person, who was not very well. What would you do if one of your family members are not very well on Sunday? We need to care for them. Or we might need to take them to hospital if we need. Our Lord healed the person on the Sabbath. Our Lord did good things to the person. Our Lord saved him on the Sabbath. That is the message of God. And this is the gospel. It has given us freedom and power.

Our Lord created the earth in six days. And on the seventh day he took a rest. Humans were made by God. For six days, we are to work and the seventh day we need to take a rest. This doesn't mean that we don't do anything at all. We are to do something special on this day. Still, we should give every time to our Lord. We need to devote ourselves to our Lord always. But on the seventh day we are to remember what our Lord has done for us. He gave us everything, but humans sinned against God. Our Lord gave us opportunity. He sent the Savior to his people. That is why we are to thank our Lord and serve God on the Lord's day. And thus we come to our church to praise God and worship him.

**Another question is how we are to keep our Lord's day holy?** We need to learn from our Lord Jesus. He spent much time for his people. Let us read Matthew 4:23. It says, "Jesus went throughout Galilee, teaching in their synagogues, preaching the good news of the kingdom, and healing every disease and sickness among the people." It is called three ministries of Jesus. As a disciple of Christ, we are to teach and preach and heal the people of God.

*First, we are to teach.* Our Lord Jesus is called a teacher. He was teaching his disciples to follow God and learn more about him. Before he left the earthly kingdom, he delivered the message that his followers were to go and make disciples of all the nations. And, his disciples were to teach everything that our Lord said and did. Teaching is normally given to the believers of Christ. Here in our church, we are to teach the word of God no matter what happens. Teaching should be one of the most important ministries in our church. Thus, we are to spend much time on teaching.

*Second, we are to preach.* Preaching would be given to non-believers of Christ. As we know, our Lord spent much time in preaching. His disciples made their own efforts to preach the word of God. Here in our church, we have done our bests on preaching the gospel at the Holiday Program, Mainly Music, Play Group, New Migrant Class, and international group. I was happy to lead the new migrant class. In the class, there were about 15 students every term. Many of them were not believers of Christ. We taught them about Christ. It was the message of hope and

freedom. And we encouraged them to come to our church. Please pray with me that they would accept our Lord Jesus and be a part of our church.

*Third, we are to heal.* In the ministry of Jesus, we would often see that Jesus spent too much time on healing. One day, Jesus healed Simon's mother in law. And there were many who suffered from sickness and diseases, and were possessed by demons in those days. The bible said Jesus healed them. Our Lord is still healing his people today. We need to come to God by the guidance of the Holy Spirit. He will heal us in his time and in his ways.

From now on we need to teach and preach and heal the people of God in the guidance of our Lord Jesus. He will care for each one of us. Ask God, he will answer us.

Look at Pharisees. They were trying to accuse Jesus. They were attacking Jesus. Unfortunately, they didn't understand our Lord Jesus. Jesus said in verse 5, "stretch out your hand. He stretched out his hand and it was completely healed. Verse 6 says, "the Pharisees went out and began to plot with the Herodians how they might kill Jesus."

**What have you leaned so far?** We need the law of God as believers of Christ. Because it helps us to understand what we are to do. The law of God is like a light. It helps us to see in the darkness. The law is like a map. Today, we have a GPS. It helps us to find the place very well. While I was driving in South Korea, I forgot to bring my map. And, I was having difficulties finding the place where I were to go. With a map, we know where we are to go.

We have a bible. It is the law of God. It helps us what we are to do in this world. More significantly, we are to follow God. We are to keep the word of God by the help of our Lord Jesus Christ. He helps us how to follow the word of God. He helps us how to walk with our Lord in this world.

Remember that our Lord is the Lord of the Sabbath. Mark 2:27-28, "the Sabbath was made for man, not man for the Sabbath. So the Son of Man is Lord even of the Sabbath."

Our Lord is still with us. He helps us what we are to do in this world. Many of us are very busy doing lots of things today. We are not quite sure of how many biblical passage we are to read and follow. At which passages we are to follow or don't have to. Here is the key. Our Lord Jesus has got the key. He still helps us to follow and do everything for him. Let us give ourselves to our Lord

Let us pray. Almighty God. We are so grateful to you for what you have done for us. We understand how believers of Christ are to follow our Lord Jesus. And we know the real meaning of the Sabbath. Please help us to keep it holy on the Lord's day. Lord, you are our teacher. Please teach us how to follow you. As brothers and sisters in Christ, we are to make our own efforts to our Lord. Bless all of those who are in this church. Thank you Lord. We pray in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.