

Our society has coined a new expression. It is called Derangement Syndrome. In fact the Derangement syndrome has been applied to the President of the United States. No matter what the man does, even if it is a good thing, those with the syndrome find something wrong with it. Years ago, in the days of Jesus Christ, there were leaders in the church, called the Pharisees, who suffered from Jesus Derangement Syndrome. They couldn't stand Jesus. They hated Jesus. They were constantly looking for something to criticize and condemn him for. But Jesus was so patient with these people. He kept trying to reach them, and help them to understand the Scriptures better. Let us take a closer look tonight at the Wounds Jesus bore for us. Let's look at the false charges of: "The Wounds of Violating the Sabbath."

As all of you recall, our God created the world in 6 24 hour days. But on the 7th day, we are told that he rested. Now that doesn't mean that God got tired. For we know that the Lord never grows weary. It simply means that he sat back and reflected on his creation. It was a time of perfect contentment, satisfaction, and total fulfillment, that He experienced. What I noticed here is that on every day from day 1 to six, there was an ending. There was morning, there was evening, the 1st day, 2nd, 3rd, 4th, 5th, 6th. But on the seventh day, there was no ending. Reminds me that God wants this contentment, fulfillment, satisfaction, to be found in his creation forever.

As time went on, because of sin entering the world, God established his commandments with Moses. These commandments served a threefold purpose. They were to be like a mirror. They would show Israel their sins, and need for a Savior. They would serve as a curb, to curb outbursts of evil. And they would serve as a guide, in how Israel could live lives that would honor God. In addition to these laws, God gave his people ceremonial laws that governed their religious life. They were laws like the various sacrifices they were to make, foods to eat, religious festivals, Sabbath days. And God gave them civil laws which governed them as a nation. These ceremonial and civil laws were to keep them as a tight knit nation until Jesus came.

Today, we have charges being brought against Jesus that he had broken the 3rd commandment. The Lord had set up the 3rd commandment, so that we would have a time when we could reflect on his Wonderful creation, and all the blessings He has given us. A time to praise Him, Give Thanks to Him. A time to pull away from the business of work, and other activities and focus on the Lord. The Law of Moses did point out many kinds of labor to be avoided on the Sabbath day. However, As the years went by the religious leaders invented hundreds of new regulations that they added to the original directive God gave to Moses.

In our lesson for tonight, we find the disciples going thru a grainfield near the time of the Jewish Passover, probably in the month of April. It was a Sabbath day. As they went thru the grainfields, they picked some heads of grain to eat. In the book of Deuteronomy, people were allowed to eat what they wanted when they went through a grainfield. They were just not to use a sickle. Well anyway, the Pharisees accused Jesus of breaking the 3rd commandment. Jesus and his disciples were working on the Sabbath Day.

Falsely accused. Jesus tells them that he did not violate the 3rd commandment. He did not violate a God-given law. This was a law that the Pharisees made up. Jesus reminds them that the law of love for human needs supersedes any ceremonial or religious law. Jesus tells the story of when David's men were starving to death, while they were on the run from King Saul. They came to the tent church. In the Holy place of the tent church was a table of showbread, with 12 loaves of bread on it. Those loaves were placed there to show how the Lord provides for all of our needs. At the end of the week, the priests were given those loaves as pay. That was the ceremonial law. But here were men starving to death. They needed something to eat. So

Ahimelech gave them the bread. Jesus says, that anytime there might be a conflict between these ceremonial laws and human needs, God says, I desire mercy not sacrifice. In other words, do what is necessary to be merciful, loving, to someone in need, rather than to always follow the letter of the ceremonial laws. Eating corn on the Sabbath was not sinful working.

Jesus now tells these leaders. The Son of Man is the Lord of the Sabbath. What does he mean by that? Technically, Jesus is the Son of God. As the Son of God, he is not subject to any law, because He is the Lord of the Law. However, Jesus is also a man. As a man he came not be exempted from the law. He came to voluntarily place himself under it. And he did keep the 10 commandments, and all those ceremonial and civil laws that God gave man perfectly. No one could point out a single sin he had committed. When Jesus said, he was the Lord of the Sabbath, he meant that he had the authority to explain the true purpose of the Sabbath, and how one obeys it.

But the mob wouldn't stop. On another Sabbath day, a man with a shriveled hand was in the synagogue. They asked Jesus if he would heal that man on the Sabbath day. Jesus asked them a question, "Is it lawful on the Sabbath to do good or to do evil, to save a life or to destroy it?" He then told the man to stretch out his arm. HE did so, and the man's hand was healed. The mob was furious. Again Jesus was working, they thought. Jesus tells them, if you had sheep stuck in a it on the Sabbath, even though it would require physical labor on your part, wouldn't you rescue that sheep? A human being is far more important than any animal. Showing love to a hurting person and healing them does not break the 3rd commandment.

As you can see, Jesus was obedient to all the ceremonial, civil and moral laws of the Old Testament. He kept those laws for us.

You might say, well, I wouldn't have ever refused to get someone to the hospital if they were sick or hurt on the Sabbath Day. I wouldn't accuse someone of breaking the 3rd commandment if they were harvesting grain on a Saturday. But you and I do break the 3rd commandment. We don't always want to eagerly hear God's Word. We are on vacation. The church is a bit of a drive away. Let's stay home. Or we have friends over for the weekend. They don't go to church, so we don't go either when they stay at our homes. A part-time job or a recreational activity takes place on a Sunday, so we just can't make it to worship. WE are guilty of despising God's Word if we let anything in the world crowd it out of our lives. Or we have an attitude, that I know what I need to know. I don't need to attend a Bible study or read my Bible. Or we may just go thru the motions of going to church. We don't pay close attention, or we listen, but don't believe what is said, or we listen, believe, but don't apply to our lives. God wants us to hear and learn his Word gladly every day. God wants us to believe and obey his Word. He wants us to share that Word with others. How fortunate, we are to have Jesus, who perfectly kept the 3rd commandment for us. Jesus, who was accused of violating the Sabbath Day when he never did. By His wounds, we have been healed.

The ultimate the purpose of the Sabbath Day was not to give the Old Testament Israelites a break from their work; it was to give them time every week to ponder how their Creator and Savior God would one day give them perfect rest. That perfect rest would come through God's perfect Son, Jesus who took our sins upon himself, like a father hoisting onto himself his son's bursting backpack so that the child can run ahead and explore the hiking trail unhindered by backbreaking weight. Since Jesus came to give us real, lasting rest through this forgiveness, there is no need to keep refraining from work on the Sabbath. To do so would be like ignoring the real burger on the plate in front of you and instead chewing on a picture of a burger featured in the restaurant menu! While we no longer need to physically rest one day a week, there is a

continuing need for us to ponder what Jesus has done for us. For it's through God's Word that faith in Jesus is created and strengthened. Without that Word we'll lose faith and therefore be shut out of the eternal rest God has prepared for us. Already in Bible times the importance of hearing God's Word was connected to the Sabbath Day. Although the lay people were not to work on the Sabbath, the priests were busy, busier than usual for God had commanded an extra burnt offering on the Sabbath.

Ah but it's still easy to wonder whether faithful worship attendance really does anything. I mean do you remember anything from the Sunday sermon come Monday morning? Not even much sticks in my mind by then and I preached the sermon! So is listening to, or preaching a sermon a waste of time? No. It's like washing your shirt. The soap and the water may pass right through the shirt so that nothing sticks but it does leave the shirt clean and fresh. Likewise you may not be able to remember much from the Sunday sermon or from your home devotions but whenever God's Word passes through you to convict you of your sins and to remind you of your forgiveness in Jesus it leaves you clean and fresh, and ready for service. So eagerly hear and study the Word! Reach for the Bible, not the bottle when you need some comfort and encouragement. God, through his Word, will give you the rest you seek. Thank You Jesus for Keeping the Sabbath Day for us. WE are sorry for all the false charges that were brought against you on our behalf. By Your wounds, we have been healed. Amen..