


Part 4
A Divine Light in a Dark World
Jesus: Lord of the Sabbath

TALKINGPOINTS WALKINGPOINTS

A publication of  the adult discipleship ministry of Triangle Community Church.

Talk together about the glory of God's kingdom. –Psalm 145:11
Love the Lord your God and **walk** in all his ways. –Joshua 22:5



2021.1.28&31

Triangle Community Church aims to be a “transforming church”. We exist to be used by God as He transforms ordinary people into extraordinary followers of Jesus Christ. TCC believes not only that life-change is possible—but that it is to be expected. Growth is God's will for his people. But transformation does not happen by accident. It requires intentional, intelligent, action. 1 Timothy 4:7 instructs you to “discipline yourself for the purpose of godliness.” Since “Talking Points, Walking Points” is intended both for individual reflection and for group discussion, questions vary in degree of vulnerability required. Generally it is best to begin group discussions with questions which involve less personal disclosure—but don't linger there. Be sure to “dive deep” too! The questions which require the greatest openness and honesty, as well as those in the section entitled “Digging Deeper in your Daily Quiet Time”, are perfect for private reflection.

Questions for Community Group Discussion

- What from Sunday's message interested you? ...made sense to you? ...confused you? ...intrigued you? ...upset you? ...encouraged you? ...and **why**?
- Pastor Doug noted that God's Law doesn't restrict us—it promotes human freedom and flourishing. Read Psalm 119:45. Has this been **your** experience—or not? Tell us about it, please.
- In Eden, God commanded, "Eat anything you want—except from that one tree. And have a lot of babies." Later, a bunch more Laws were added (read Galatians 3:19–20; v. 16 explains who the "seed" is). **Why** were all these additional Laws added? What happened in the world that necessitated more laws?
- Read Romans 13:10. How do you see this in operation in Jesus' healing of the man's withered hand (Mark 3:3)?
If we all consistently "did no wrong to a neighbor", do you think we would feel "restricted"? Explain.
In what ways might we "flourish"? Be specific.
What do you think it will take for you to view God's Law as more restorative than restrictive?

Do you delight to obey God's Law?
To connect with a discipler, e-mail:
BiblicalHopeAndHelp@gmail.com

Application-Challenge

Jesus is "Lord of the Sabbath", so make sure you...

- Don't miss out on the of rest, replenishment, and restoration found only in him.
- Don't make him your enemy by turning his Law into a burden rather than a blessing.
- Don't anger him by replacing his Lordship with your own man-made rules (Mark 7:9–13).

Sermon Summary (Key Text: Mark 2:23–3:6)

Today's text records two incidents regarding the Sabbath. Modeled after the creation week, Jews were to work on six days and rest and worship on the seventh. We'll explore three factors: [1] Why did Jesus get angry?, [2] What does the alliance of Jesus' enemies (Herodians and Pharisees) tell us?, and [3] What does Jesus' amazing claim that he is 'Lord of the Sabbath' mean?"

[1] Jesus' anger (3:5). The Greek word for anger used here is very intense; Jesus is not merely mildly irritated! Jesus also was grieved; another intense word. So we have epic anger combined with incredible grief at their hard, hostile, blind hearts. The purpose of the Sabbath was to provide a day of rest, replenishment, and restoration. In an attempt to make sure that no one violated the Sabbath, the Pharisees created onerous non-biblical rules—rules that were thwarting the very purpose for which the Sabbath was established! God's Law is a gift, but the Pharisees had made it into a burden. That is why Jesus was so angry. Jesus was furious towards those who held this mistaken notion that God's law is there to crush and restrain us. This notion can be traced all the way back to Eden. When God placed the human race in Paradise he gave them only one law. Just one. Basically, God was saying, "I want you to obey me simply because you trust that I am loving and good and infinitely wise." But Satan said: "The law of God is a burden, not a gift. It will squelch the deep desires of your heart." I'm convinced that every single one of us is affected by the Serpent's lie, seeing moral constraints as a burden, rather than as a gift, as death-producing rather than life-enriching. That heart attitude prompted Jesus' epic fury.

[2] Jesus' enemies (3:6). The Pharisees and the Herodians teamed up against Jesus, and this was an extraordinary development. The Roman Empire ruled Israel and sought to impose its pagan ideas and codes of conduct on them. The Pharisees responded to this imposed pagan immorality by doubling down on their religious rules. They added tons of footnotes to every Biblical law clarifying what was, and was not, acceptable. It was essentially a conservative overreaction to what was perceived as a creeping immorality. The Herodians, on the other hand, supported the secular Roman powers, represented by the Herodian dynasty. So church, understand this: the Pharisees and the Herodians were sworn enemies! Jesus told both groups that they were in grave error, and so a common hatred of Jesus brought these two opposing groups into alliance against him. Both groups shared attitudes toward God's law which had been warped by Satan's lie—that God's law is a burden, not a blessing. The irreligious may say, "God's rules are burdensome—I'll live anyway I want." The moderately religious pick and choose, obeying some commands, while rejecting/reinterpreting others. But how about religious people—like us? How have we been impacted by Satan's lie? I think that we sometimes keep the law of God in order to pry blessings out of what we perceive to be his tightly closed hands. "I do that for you, God—you do this for me." What can liberate us from these attitudes?

[3] Jesus' claim (2:28). Right after Jesus said that the Sabbath is a blessing, not a burden, he made a remarkable claim: "The Son of Man is Lord even of the Sabbath" (v. 28). Jesus didn't repeal the Sabbath, he claimed to be the divine interpreter of its purpose. Jesus use an example from King David's life (v. 25-26; cf. 1 Samuel 21:1-6 and Leviticus 24:5-9). Just as David's life was preserved by eating bread which legally was off-limits to him, how much more should the regulations regarding what is holy on the Sabbath be set aside for Jesus and his companions when seeking to do what is good? But I think something even more profound is at work: the Sabbath is all about rest—physical rest and spiritual rest—and Jesus promises that he gives us rest (Matthew 11:28–29). Jesus himself is our Sabbath rest (Hebrews 4:9–10)! Jesus provides rest for us. When we realize that, it exposes the serpent's lie. We begin to realize, "Surely I can trust someone who loves me the way Jesus does. Jesus is Lord of the Sabbath, he has provided the rest that I so desperately need." Church, that is the gospel!

Talking To Others About This Week's Message

If a neighbor or friend at work asks you, "*What kind of stuff do they talk about at your church?*", how would you summarize the most important elements of this week's sermon and the key lessons you intend to apply to your life? Can you explain it in **plain language** anyone could understand?

Digging Deeper in Your Daily Quiet Time

"Five Question Bible Study" (see page below) *is a simple way to study any passage. We can use it to learn more about the "Sabbath rest" we have in Jesus...*

Monday—Psalm 95:1-2 List all of the commands (verb+adverb) in these two verses.

Tuesday—Psalm 95:3-5 List why v. 1-2 is spontaneous delight, not "forced cheerfulness".

Wednesday—Psalm 95:6-7b "We **lower** ourselves before God because he **exalted** us." Explain.

Thursday—Psalm 95:7c-11 Do you listen with **obedient** ears?

Friday—Hebrews 3 & 4. Will **you** avoid Israel's error? If so, **how**?

Saturday—***In preparation for worshipping your risen Lord with your church family,***
read the **Book of Jonah.**

Bible Text: _____

Date: _____



What idea particularly strikes me from this text? [Note in which verse(s) it is found.]



What question does this text raise in my mind—and how would **this text** answer it?



What about Jesus Christ—his character and/or his redemption—relates to this text?



What action must I take as a result of this text? Be concrete and specific.



With whom will I share what I learned from this text? [and what was their response?]

TIME IS
RUNNING OUT!

A flyer for a Men's Bible Study titled "JOHN" by PointMan. The flyer is pinned to a surface with a red pushpin. It features a blue header with the title "JOHN" in large white letters. Below the title, it says "JESUS—THE WORD, THE MESSIAH, THE SON OF GOD" and "Men's Bible Study". There is a list of bullet points, a logo for "MEN'S GROUPS" with the website "TCC.org/Men", and a section with "Mornings:" and "Evenings:" options. At the bottom, it says "Go to: tcc.org" and "Keyword: PointMan".

PointMan

JOHN

JESUS—THE WORD, THE MESSIAH, THE SON OF GOD

Men's Bible Study

- Gospel of John
- 13 weeks, beginning January 11
- Open to all men
- Just \$10 (for materials)
- Choose the time that fits you best...

Life is best lived
in circles not
rows.

**MEN'S
GROUPS**
TCC.org/Men

Mornings: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Mondays• 7-8:30am• begins January 11 (ends early April)• zoom only	Evenings: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Mondays• 7-8:30pm• begins January 11 (ends early April)• zoom or face-to-face option (at <u>TCC</u>)
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• **Go to:** tcc.org **Keyword:** **PointMan**

Men—
Don't miss this opportunity
for spiritual growth!