

God's Mercy on the Sabbath

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John 9:13-41

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A Blind Man Now Can See

- The blind man was sent to pool; *he went and washed and came back seeing*
- A controversy erupted over if the blind man saw⁸⁻⁹... Man said he now saw!
- Crowd took this man to the Pharisees¹³. Why?
- Pharisees asked the man... How?
- John clues coming controversy... *Now it was the Sabbath day*¹⁴...
- Previously controversy over healing on Sabbath¹⁵ Lame man at Bethsada
- Does Jesus give sight on Sabbath to unmask Pharisee's hypocrisy?

Poor Conclusions

- Blind man told what happened...
- Sad conclusions from hard hearts: *This man is not from God*¹⁶
- There was division among them¹⁶

What Does the Law Say?

- 4th command: Ex 20:8-11; Dt.5:12-15
- Jesus not breaking God's law, but Pharisee's 39 additional laws on Sabbath
- Likely 'making mud' was considered 'kneading dough'
- Pharisees were not acting as truth seekers but as power wielders
- In their zeal they had lost sight of the mercy and character of God
- They can't rejoice over healing because they perceived rules were broken
- Jesus, as God, understood intentions of Sabbath Mk2:25-27
- Pharisees had lost sight of purpose of Sabbath day
- Gift from Creation - 1 in 7 rest; God gave Sabbath before giving law^{Ex16:28}
- Gift after Exodus - 4th command^{Ex20:15} freedom from daily slavery
- As Jesus taught *Sabbath was made for man, not man for Sabbath*^{Mk2:28}

How Should We Enjoy the Sabbath?

- WCF 21:8 points us to God's Word: for worship; works of necessity & mercy
- worship - instead of bondage every day we get to worship 1 in 7
- what about pastors/church work? Mt 12:5 facilitating worship is not 'work'
- works of necessity - life must go on - handle emergencies^{Lk14:5}, etc... beware of slippery slope of justifying many things...
- works of mercy - Jesus' whole life was doing good^{Act10:38}

What Jesus Did

- On Sabbath Jesus healed the lame^{Jn5:1-8}; gave sight^{Jn9}; others^{Lk13:10-17;14:1;Mk1:31}
- But if Jesus broke Sabbath He is NOT qualified to be Savior!
- Jesus did break man's 39 additional rules but not God's law
- Jesus healed on Sabbath to expose the hypocrisy of the Pharisees
- They should have looked to Abraham and his faith^{Gen15:6} not the law

They Asked the Formerly Blind Man

- After the division among Pharisees¹⁶, they again asked the man¹⁷
- Man saw the signs as authenticating Jesus so replied: *He is a prophet*¹⁷
- They had to discredit this miracle - or accept Jesus
- They called man's parents - Is this your son? How can he see?
- They deferred due to fear of the bully²² Pharisees - he is old enough...
- Again they called the man - *I was blind but now I see*²⁵
- Simple faith based on Jesus' works
- Do you believe^{Jn20:31} on Jesus' works^{2Cor5:21}?