

Preparing to Hear the Word

- Try to recall the main idea and text from each sermon in the series
- Read over this week's passage: Mark 2:23-3:6
- In the Sabbatarian theology of the WCF, the divines made exceptions for two kinds of work on the Lord's Day "works of necessity" and "works of mercy." These twin episodes in Mark 2:23-3:6 are often referred to as prooftexts for these two categories of Sabbatarian theology. Consider the passage from this perspective.
- What was wrong with the Pharisees' approach to the Sabbath?
- Why did Jesus react so vehemently (angry and grieved vrs 5) to the Pharisees' misapplication of the 4th commandment?
- What alternative approach is Jesus suggesting?
- When Jesus responds to the accusation of the Pharisees, he does NOT do so by denying that they were working. He does so by pointing to a Biblical example of David breaking the law of God (see Numbers 24:9). What is Jesus' point?
- Read Numbers 24:9 and 1 Samuel 21:1-6. Why was it justifiable for David to do what is "not lawful" in this instance?
- What does it mean the "Sabbath was made for man?"
- Why does Jesus call himself the "Lord of the Sabbath?"

Profiting from the Hearing of the Word

- What three things did the Pharisees misunderstand, which caused their misapplication?
- What is God's intent for the Sabbath? What did the Pharisees mistakenly think it was?
 - Which verse of this passage most clearly spells out God's intent for the Sabbath?
- What were/are Jesus' priorities on the Sabbath? What were the Pharisees' priorities?
- What is God's heart behind the Sabbath? What was the Pharisees' heart behind the Sabbath?
- Which of these three points most stood out to you? Which of these three have you tended to miss? What needs to change?
- How can you show mercy and give rest to others on the Sabbath?
- Meditate on Q&A 117 from Westminster Larger Catechism
- Meditate on the good news that Jesus alone is Lord of the conscience and Lord of the Sabbath