

SHIFTS HAPPENS, on to my NEXT SEASON

Week 1 -Day 4

Lesson Title: A Higher Purpose

“For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, declares the Lord.” Isaiah 55:8

We are often told what we should do and how we should do it according to “tradition” but what happens when that is thrown out the window and a higher purpose revealed by God!

Today we will cover some deep, thought-provoking material. Take a moment to pray before we start and ask for insight from God.

READ: Mark 2:18-20

In verse 19, how did Jesus describe His disciples?

Jesus in the text referred to Himself as the _____. Just as it would be inappropriate for the groom’s attendants to fast (an expression of sorrow) in the presence of the bridegroom, so it was inappropriate for Jesus’ disciples to fast (in sorrow) while He was with them.”

The disciples would fast after Jesus was taken away from them, it would be that the disciples would need to fast.

READ: Mark 2:21-22

New wine expands as it ferments, and as it expands it would burst old and brittle wineskins that were no longer flexible.

READ Romans 7:5-6 (Note any insight you gain into Jesus’ sewing analogy and His reference to new wine and old wineskins.

Jesus statement in Mark 2:21-22 challenged the Pharisees because their focus was on the letter of the law. What Jesus said, let them know that the new way of the Spirit cannot be confined to the way of the law. Jesus’ words made the religious leaders uncomfortable because he continued to challenge their continual focus upon holding the people to the letter of the law.

READ Mark 2:23-3:6

When the Pharisees disapproved of the Lord feeding His people and healing on the Sabbath, they confirmed that Jesus’ identity was a mystery to them. These religious leaders were so concerned with following the law they forgot why it was established in the first place.

READ some of the Sabbath laws recorded in Exodus 23:10-12.

What is the central theme of the Sabbath according to these verses?

The Sabbath was designed to allow God's people to rest and be refreshed. These men were in the presence of the Lord Himself, but they were so blinded by their focus on the letter of the law they couldn't see that healing and refreshment were among God's purposes.

In your experience, what happens when we focus too much on the law and forget to focus on the GOD who established the law?

In our text we find that pride was allowed to raise its ugly head in the hearts of the Pharisees when they begin to hold others to the letter of the law. The same happens to us when we begin to hold others to the law of the law or to what we see as tradition.

According to Mark 3:6 how did the pharisees respond to Jesus correction?

This zealous group led by Jesus evidently stirred up quite a ruckus in Jerusalem, so much so that the Religious leaders started hunting Jesus down and even His own family began to think that Jesus had lost his mind

READ: Mark 3:7-30

By whom did the teachers of the law saw Jesus was possessed (v22)?

Beelzebub is another name for _____?

What was Jesus response in verse 23?

What the teachers of the law were proposing was absurd when you take a moment to think about it. Satan surely would not be casting out those who were in alliance with him. To do so would undermine his own work.

What did Jesus caution the religious leaders against in verse 29?

Although Jesus didn't directly say these leaders had committed this "eternal sin" it is clear that by observing the work of Jesus and attributing it to Satan, the men were in danger of "making" a complete and final rejection of God's offer of salvation in Jesus.

Just after Jesus confrontation with the religious leaders, His family arrived.

READ Mark 3:31-34.

These are difficult words to swallow but remember the purpose of His family.
According to Mark 3:20-21, what did Jesus' family set out to do?

They were not there to see Jesus or support him in the work that he was doing. They were there to STOP Him! At that moment, they were opposing the will of God, and Jesus had no choice but to denounce their purpose. Yes, his family loved him but they didn't understand what He was doing and He couldn't allow them to undermine the work that GOD the Father had sent Him to do.

READ John 3:16-17

Why did our heavenly Father send Jesus to Earth?

Aren't you thankful that Jesus never allowed anything or anyone to stand in His way! Jesus had a higher purpose than any of the people who opposed Him could not understand.

How does Isaiah 55:8-9 give you insight into the material we studied today?

Take time to memorize Isaiah 55:8-9. The truth contained in these verses will give you courage and strength when you struggle to understand your circumstances.