

**Jasmine Young | NT622 Mark | Exegetical Research Paper Outline | March 14, 2023**

**Research Paper Topic: Would today's contemporary Sabbath observation align to what the historical Jesus expected?**

**Research Paper Outline:**

1. Text/Passage
  - a. Mark 2:23-28 "Jesus is Lord of the Sabbath"
2. Introduction
  - a. Aim: to seek the historical significance of Sabbath to OT reader, and NT hearer of Jesus' statements and critique (if necessary) contemporary practice
  - b. Secondary application: can the same conclusions be drawn for the Ten Commandments as a whole?
3. Observations
  - a. Jesus' audience are the Pharisees (as opposed to the scribes, is there a difference worth noting here?)
  - b. The accusation (plucking grain) seemed "trumped-up". What was the convention of the day?
  - c. Jesus answered them with David's testimony. Was there particular significance to this?
  - d. Is Jesus' pronouncement straight-forward speech or a sort of literary device?
  - e. Briefly describe Sabbath as observed today in various Judeo-Christian spaces
4. Interpretation
  - a. Jesus expounds on the true purpose of the Sabbath which is different from the conventional observation of the day even though the Pharisee's common practice is drawn from the Law. It is possible for man to misinterpret or misapply what God had instituted in the Law of Moses.
5. Main Reasons
  - a. The Pharisee spoke to Jesus about his disciples' behavior intentionally to evoke a reaction.
  - b. The disciples were obviously aware of conventional Sabbath observance but must have also known Jesus' position regarding this particular action (plucking grain)
  - c. Jesus's response to the Pharisees is a rebuke, so he is displeased with their current observation of Sabbath.
  - d. Jesus uses the Old Testament (and a favored king David) to demonstrate his point (there is something about this that sounds like a parable)
6. Evidence
  - a. (to be completed after the research)
7. Application
  - a. Sabbath observation must remember that the Sabbath was made for mankind; mankind was not made for the Sabbath. There appears to be a dual message here

(that the Sabbath was *given* to mankind, yet mankind has confused this fact and that there is *wrong* way to worship). The use of 'Son of Man' here is interesting.

- b. Does contemporary Sabbath observance fall afoul in the same way as the Pharisees?
8. Conclusion
- a. Contemporary Sabbath observance may deviate from practice observed historically in the Bible.
  - b. In any event, not all Biblical examples were pleasing to God
  - c. Jesus' words provide clarity about the right framing of worship, even in observance of the Sabbath

### Proposed Bibliography

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- Throckmorton, Burton H. *Gospel Parallels: A Comparison of the Synoptic Gospels, New Revised Standard Version*. 5th ed. Nashville: Thomas Nelson, 1992.
- Williams, Joel. *Mark*. Edited by Andreas J. Köstenberger and Robert W. Yarbrough. Nashville: B&H Academic, 2020.
- Witherington, Ben. *The Gospel of Mark: A Socio-Rhetorical Commentary*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2001.