



PASTOR'S NOTES

The King Who Is Lord of the Sabbath

Mark 2:23-28; 3:1-6

King Jesus reveals the Sabbath's gracious purpose.

See Mark 2:23-27

Jesus' argument focuses on two truths:

1. God's commands must be understood in light of his purposes, including his concern for genuine human need. Jesus is not suggesting that God's commands may be disregarded whenever obedience becomes inconvenient.
2. David was God's anointed king, opposed by Saul, with hungry men associated with him. (1 Samuel 21) Jesus, the greater Son of David, likewise stands with his hungry disciples as they face opposition. If David and his companions received bread ordinarily reserved for priests, how much more should the Pharisees reconsider their condemnation of Jesus and his disciples?

The Sabbath was made for man, not man for the Sabbath. (Mark 2:27) God did not create people to serve the Sabbath. He established the Sabbath for the good of the people. (The Sabbath was intended to be a blessing, not a burden.)

The Pharisees' interpretation of the Sabbath law was so rigid that they made hunger and suffering necessary expressions of faithfulness. They had clearly veered from God's heart and purpose.

When we read a text like this, we need to ask ourselves how we might be vulnerable to the same attitudes and misalignments. So, we should pray: "Holy Spirit, reveal any belief or expectation in me that doesn't align with your heart and will, so that I am not burdensome to your people."

Perhaps one of the simplest tests is how we respond to people, especially those who are hurting or in need. Do we see them as someone to love and help, or someone to evaluate and condemn?

King Jesus declares his authority over the Sabbath.

"So the Son of Man is lord even of the Sabbath." (Mark 2:28 ESV)

The Sabbath controversies are not simply disagreements between Jesus and religious teachers about how to interpret the law. They are confrontations between the religious establishment and the Lord of the Sabbath himself.

In this text, Jesus is not merely offering another interpretation of the Sabbath alongside the Pharisees'. He declares that he has the authority to determine its meaning and proper observance.

King Jesus displays mercy and exposes hardened hearts.

See Mark 3:1-6

Mark takes us into a synagogue where Jesus encounters a man with a withered hand. The religious leaders are watching the Lord, not to learn from him, but to accuse him.

According to their traditions, healing on the Sabbath was generally permitted when someone's life was in danger. But this man's condition was not life-threatening. They believed his healing could wait. However, Jesus refuses to accept their way of thinking.

"Is it lawful on the Sabbath to do good or to do harm, to save life or to kill?" (Mark 3:4)

The religious leaders refuse to answer because they cannot answer him without exposing the failure of their own position.

Mark gives us a remarkable glimpse into Jesus' heart. He looks upon these men with anger, grieved at their hardness of heart. His anger is righteous, and his grief is genuine. These religious leaders have become so resistant to God's truth that they cannot rejoice at the prospect of a suffering man being restored.

How about us? It is possible to know the Scriptures, defend religious traditions, and maintain an appearance of devotion while hardening toward the very things that matter to God.

We should never confuse faithfulness to our religious expectations with faithfulness to Jesus Christ.

How could these religious leaders be so concerned about honoring God's law while failing to recognize the goodness and mercy that God himself requires?

How, too, could the King of the Kingdom have come and minister before them, but they refuse to submit to him, so they plot to kill him?

The irony is unmistakable. These men condemn Jesus for supposedly violating the Sabbath while they themselves begin conspiring to murder him. They are so determined to preserve their religious authority that they are willing to oppose the Lord of the Sabbath himself.

Friends, don't assume that because you know the Bible, attend church, and hold to your convictions, your heart is necessarily right with God. Ask yourself:

- Am I humbly submitting to Jesus Christ?
- Am I willing for his word to correct me, confront my sin, and change the way I live?
- Or am I resisting him in some area of my life?



MeadowBrook CHURCH

Sunday, October 18, 2026 • Pastor Randy Gunter
mbchurch.com

WEDNESDAY NIGHT

MEN'S GROUP & WOMEN'S GROUP





BEGINS THIS WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 21 6:30 PM

MEN CONFERENCE CENTER

WOMEN DINING HALL



CONNECT

people to Christ
and His church

FLANNEL & Frills

Father/Daughter dance for girls from birth to fifth grade

SUNDAY, OCT 25 * 5:30 PM * THEATER

Dress: Casual or Flannel for Fathers; Frilly & Girly for Daughters

RSVP ON THE APP OR MBCHURCH.COM



The Forge:

Father/Son Retreat

November 6-7

WorldSong Missions Place

\$45 Per Child / \$90 Per Adult

Register by OCTOBER 25
on the App or mbchurch.com

55+ ALABAMA BAPTIST SAINTS ALIVE ONE-DAY CONFERENCE

hosted by MeadowBrook

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 29

9:15 AM - 2:45 PM





This one-day statewide event will feature uplifting gospel music from Karen Peck and New River and faithful gospel preaching by Pastor Randy and Edwin Jenkins. The event is free; no registration is required to attend. There is a \$10 on-campus lunch option available, but you must register and purchase in advance if you plan to have lunch. **Register on the App or mbchurch.com**



GROW

them as disciples
and equip them to

WHAT'S HAPPENING THIS WEEK!

TODAY

8:00-8:20 am - Sunday Morning Prayer Time - W105
9:00 & 10:30 am - Worship - Worship Center
9:00 & 10:30 am - Life Group
9:00-11:30 am - MeadowBrook Kids - Kids' Theater
9:00-11:30 am - MeadowBrook Preschool
4:00 pm - Global Missions Cohort - Round Room
5:30 pm - Women on Mission - Home of Robbie Lancaster
6:30 pm - The Collective (Young Adults) - Theater

MONDAY, OCTOBER 19

10:00 am - GriefShare - Conference Center
4:30 pm - Men's Bible Study - Conference Center

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 20

Abundant Life Choir singing at Baptist Retirement Village
9:30 am - Tuesday Bible Study - Dining Hall

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 21

5:00 pm - Fellowship Meal - Gym
(Hamburger Steak, Mashed Potatoes, Pinto Beans, Coleslaw,
Cornbread or Salad with a Protein;
Kids: Tacos, Chips & Cookies)
5:30 pm - Kids' Choir - Room 210
6:30 pm - Wednesday Men's Group & Women's Group,
Preschool Ministry, KidStuf, Middle School Worship,
High School Worship, Worship Ministry Rehearsal

Welcome

If you are our **GUEST**,
we'd like to **CONNECT**
with you! Please fill out
a **CONNECTION CARD**
and stop by
GUEST CONNECTIONS
for a **FREE** gift!



Life together for the
Kingdom of God

Take the next step toward
finding Christ-Centered
community at MeadowBrook
by visiting a Life Group.

For a listing of our classes,
pick up a Life Group booklet
at Guest Connections.

2026 DAILY BIBLE READING

October 18 - Acts 15	October 22 - Acts 19
October 19 - Acts 16	October 23 - Acts 20
October 20 - Acts 17	October 24 - Acts 21
October 21 - Acts 18	



SERVE

through missions,
ministry and worship

GriefShare®

Surviving the Holidays

Sunday, November 1
2PM * Conference Center

Facilitated by: Amelia Day {256-490-5479}
Jim & Deb Rhodes, Bob Sanford,
Sue Chappell & Wayne Findley



Thanksgiving Lunch

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 8
11:45 AM • GYM

\$10 Adults / \$5 Kids (12 & under)

Tickets available on the App
or mbchurch.com

family DEDICATION

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 8
9:00 & 10:30 AM

Register by Sunday, Nov 1
on the App or mbchurch.com





HIGH SCHOOL WINTER RETREAT '26

DECEMBER 28-31

**WINTERPLACE SKI RESORT
WEST VIRGINIA**

**REGISTER ON THE APP
OR MBCHURCH.COM**

Prayer Needs

Cancer/Treatments: Kyle Hughes, Margie Martin, Robert Darnell, Aiden Beck, Larry Hill, Jamyne Ingram, Tiki Kemp, Anna Rae Wilson, Bonnie Pierce, Scott Watford, Sharon Tillison, Paul Roberts, Carol Collins, David Hindsman, Loucille Edge

Ongoing Needs: Bebe Pruett, Chris Burnette, Lloyd & Diane Matthews, Susan Mize, Lola-Ruth Adams, Archie Wade, Landon Cunningham, Denise Dover, Peggy Brizendine, Kathy Thompson, Jimmy & Delores Thompson, Lavelle Ogletree, Danny Maddox, Robin Roberts, Ron Crawford, Phil Causey, Janet Maise, Rita Tipton, David Draper, Reese Robinson, Charlotte Taylor, Lindsey Rakestraw, Laura Hoge, Gary Alexander, Karen Ragan, Linda Roy, Joan Henry, Tim Davis, Gerry Grant, Linda Dees, Dorothy Hand, Kenny Cahall, Ivan Fike, Larry Parker, Sandra & Wendell Qualls, Aiden Barron

- Betsy Wells & family in the loss of Charles
- Family of Tim MacMillan in his passing