

LOGF NOTES 10.07.18

The Book of Mark: Jesus Trumps Religion

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Matthew 11:28-30 Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy and my burden is light.

A Legal Discussion:

1. Exodus 20:10
2. Exodus 34:21
3. 39 Categories of work as defined by Jewish law.
4. Mark 2:23
5. Mark 2:24
6. Matthew 12:7
7. Pikuach nefesh: saving a life
Leviticus 18:5 Keep my decrees and laws, for the person who obeys them will live by them. I am the LORD.

Ezekiel 20:11 I gave them my decrees and made known to them my laws, by which the person who obeys them will live.

The Torah was given to us by God to promote life.

The Bible is not a religious manual...it is a life manual.

Deep Thought: If God's laws are not burdensome, but always promote life...would it make sense that by ignoring/disobeying God's command (such as honoring the Sabbath) results in death (or the absence of the life that was meant to be received through the command)?

Summary: Jesus is saying that God is more interested in alleviating human suffering than religious protocol. God has prioritized loving humans and preserving life. Jesus did not come to promote a religion, he came to promote life!

John 10:10-11 I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full. I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep.

8. Mark 2:27

The first full day of mankind was a day of rest: created on 6th day, 7th day was rest. Each new day in the Hebrew day begins with rest, fellowship, food, sleep, than work. Our work comes from a place of rest.

Application: Our life flows from a relationship with God, resting in Him and then living.(work)

Hebrews 4:9-11 There remains, then, a Sabbath-rest for the people of God; for anyone who enters God's rest also rests from their works, just as God did from his. Let us, therefore, make every effort to enter that rest, so that no one will perish...

Takeaways

1. Realize that the Word of God is not a list of burdensome religious rules, but life-giving principles to live by. Obedience to the Word of God promotes life, not religion. God is for us, not against us. His Word equips us to live and His Spirit empowers us to obey that we might have life abundantly. Study God's Word and obey it that you might have life to the full.
2. God's priority is clear: saving human lives. We are never to use religion to bind or burden or hinder people from experiencing God's mercy, love, forgiveness and freedom. Are we reaching out to people with the love & mercy of God or are we more concerned about religious protocol?
Philippians 2:3-4 Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit. Rather, in humility value others above yourselves, not looking to your own interests but each of you to the interests of the others.
3. How much more valuable is a person than _____? What word could you fill the blank with that has been a struggle in your life?...work, my agenda, money, my time... Have you put other things as more valuable in your life than people? It's time to compare your priorities with God's priorities. God always prioritizes the saving of human lives, the alleviating of human suffering, the redemption of fallen man. Are you focused on the right things in your life? Are you more focused on your accomplishments or people, money or people, personal pleasure or people...?

Life Group Discussion:

1. Discuss our memory verse for the week:
Matthew 11:28-30 Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy and my burden is light.
2. "yoke" is referring to the heavy burdened teaching of the Pharisees. Jesus is deflecting attention away from the "religiousness" of our faith and anchoring our faith to Himself in a relational context. How does that make you feel?
3. What does the "rest for your souls" that Jesus mentions look like in our everyday life?
4. Discuss this verse and reflect on other things that you may have placed as more important than people in your own life.
Matthew 12:12 — How much more valuable is a man than a sheep!
5. Discuss the difference between viewing the Bible as rules to live by vs. life-giving truth. How does your perspective of the Bible affect your approach to it?
6. How can we prioritize people in our own lives as God has done for us?
Do...People matter more than perfection?
Do...People matter more than you getting your job done?
Do...People matter more than protocol?
Do...People matter more than money?