

THAT DAY WAS THE SABBATH

John 5:9b-16

Introduction and Review:

Last week we noted that the healing of this man is not the focus of chapter 5

By that I don't mean that it was insignificant – John does record it and it fulfills Messianic prophecies (Isaiah 35:1-6)

Rather it is instructive that Jesus' act of compassion is the setting for John's account, not the focus

1. The Problem – That day was a Sabbath (John 5:9b)

A) Some background relative to the Sabbath

- > The Law (Exodus 20:31:12-17)
- > The Prophets (Jeremiah 17:19-24)
- > The return of the Exiles (Nehemiah 13:15-19)

B) Some insights into the Traditions relative to the Sabbath

- > Oral law was the rabbinic interpretation and application of the Law for Israel
- > The problems with the Jews actions in John 5 were at least twofold

The religious leaders had elevated the authority of their tradition to a status above the authority of God's Word

The religious leaders resented Jesus and His authority

Don't forget that there is a history between Jesus and these Jews (John 2:13-18)

This isn't the only time this issue causes a confrontation between Jesus and the Jews (Mark 3:1-6; John 7:21-24; 9:13-14)

C) Some insights into our relationship to Sabbath

- > Sabbath observance was a part of God's covenant with national Israel as a testimony to the nations around them. (Exodus 31:13)

The church is not Israel, and our weekly celebration happens on the first day, not seventh

> The issue of Sabbath observance was still an issue for some in the early church (Col. 2:16-17)

There is the already / not yet aspect of Christ our Sabbath

We have ceased from our labors to merit God's favor and rest in Christ

We look forward to a rest that is yet to come (Hebrews 4:4-10)

Making a list of regulations – for Sabbath observance or dietary restrictions, may seem wise but in fact are of no value in restraining the flesh (Colossians 2:20-23)

2. The Solution

A) The Jews in the temple were confronted with a dilemma of significant proportion for them

> Abandon their religious practices which were central to their life and follow Jesus, OR

> Attack the one who was challenging their religious authority and practices

B) The critical issues for the religious leaders

> Does Jesus have the authority to define what is appropriate for Sabbath?

Notice that the focus of Jesus' teaching in the rest of this story is His authority to speak for God the Father (John 5:17-47)

If Jesus is the prophesied King and Prophet then they must believe Him and submit to Him (John 5:39, 45-47)

> The cost for believing Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God

If Jesus speaks for God, then what happens to the traditions and those who teach and enforce them? (John 11:47-48)

C) The critical application for us

> Have you acknowledged that Jesus Christ is the Son of God?

> Your actions are revealing your heart

The religious leaders reveal their heart by their actions (John 5:18)

The way you lived your life last week reveals what you really believe about Jesus Christ.

Do you resent the implications of God's authority in your life or do you lovingly submit to your Savior and Lord?