

January 21, 2025

Daily Reflections



LORD OF THE SABBATH

By Sister Jeanne Fallon, CSJ

Today's Gospel

As Jesus was passing through a field of grain on the sabbath, his disciples began to make a path while picking the heads of grain. At this the Pharisees said to him, "Look, why are they doing what is unlawful on the sabbath?" He said to them, "Have you never read what David did when he was in need and he and his companions were hungry? How he went into the house of God when Abiathar was high priest and ate the bread of offering that only the priests could lawfully eat, and shared it with his companions?" Then he said to them, "The sabbath was made for man, not man for the sabbath. That is why the Son of Man is lord even of the sabbath."

MARK 2:23-28

Reflection

As we continue to move through the second chapter of Mark, we see the

Pharisees observing Jesus with his disciples making a path through a field, plucking and eating the heads of the grain as they walked. In the eyes of the Pharisees, “harvesting grain on the Sabbath” was against the Law. As Jesus often did, he responded to their question with his own question, quoting the Hebrew scriptures regarding King David and his companions who ate the bread of presence because they were hungry. Jesus said, **“The sabbath was made for humankind, not humankind for the sabbath.”** Jesus was responding to a human need of his disciples ... their hunger was more important than the sabbath law. In fact, Jesus made the surprising statement that he himself **“is lord even of the sabbath.”** Jesus was showing his solidarity with the poor as he confronted the oppressive structure of the Law. This response was another step that put Jesus in conflict with the Pharisees as he continued to follow his messianic mission.



Jesus with the Pharisees
National Gallery of Art, CCo, via Wikimedia Commons

For Pondering and Prayer

This event is another “conflict story” in the beginning of Mark’s gospel that

suggested to his readers that Jesus' way of life was leading to his death. It also helped his followers understand that the same would be true for them. At the same time, those of us who follow Jesus Christ know that he will always be there on our behalf, and we respond in faith to him who has come for the poor and the needy of this world as our merciful Lord of the Sabbath.

And so, we pray:

May the Father of our lord Jesus Christ enlighten the eyes of our hearts, that we may know what is the hope that belongs to our call. Amen.

ST. PAUL IN EPHESIANS 1:17-18

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