



Stuff They Didn't Teach Me In Sunday School



Episode 108 - Who Is This? (Mark 2:23-4:41)

(Video Notes: Host Bruce Wurdeman refers to the rabbinic teachings with which Jesus' teachings often clashed, as in Mark 7:5. These teachings were rabbinic interpretations of the Old Testament books (some of which Jesus exposed as misinterpretations). They were passed on orally throughout the inter-testamental period until they were written into a compendium or list in approximately 200 A.D. (called the *Mishnah*). Around 500 A.D. discussions about the *Mishnah* were put into writing and called the *Gemara*. These two are combined in the Jewish text known as the Talmud.

Modern scholarship does not precisely know which teachings recorded in the Talmud were actually taught in Jesus' day. This is because Jewish thinking changed and developed after the destruction of the Jerusalem temple by Rome in 70 A.D. and the resulting disruption of the Jewish commonwealth. As scholars study the Talmud they sometimes disagree about which teachings were held in Jesus' day and which reflect the development of Jewish thinking in the wake of the destruction of the temple during the Jewish War.)

The Sabbath was a huge deal to the rabbis or Jewish teachers. In their corrupted religion no law was more important—or protected—than the Sabbath restriction against work. It was that upside-down idea of keeping their noses clean on the Sabbath that Jesus would battle frequently during His ministry.

- How can we undervalue the act of weekly worship?
- How can people who value worship end up distorting it from God's actual purpose for it?

Jesus taught that God has made the Sabbath as a gift—a servant for man's good. But the rabbis' legalism distorted this idea, making men to be the servants of the Sabbath.

- In what sense is worship to be a servant for us?
- What attitude should we possess concerning worship to make it a servant God made for *our* benefit?

Jesus came into the fisherman's world—the Sea of Galilee—and demonstrated His power and authority over the wind and the waves.

- Why would this be such an awe-inspiring experience for the disciples?
- How does Jesus' power over nature give you courage?
- How has Christ shown His wisdom and power in your particular line of work or special interest in life?

Through His life, suffering and death, Jesus has made us right with God our Father. He still comes to us in every situation to guide, bless and comfort us. As our King, He will continue to guide us to our heavenly home.