

Space for God Hard Hearts

PREPARATION

So God set another time for entering his rest, and that time is today. God announced this through David much later in the words already quoted:

"Today when you hear his voice, don't harden your hearts." Hebrews 4:7

CONFESSION

I said, 'Plant the good seeds of righteousness, and you will harvest a crop of love.

Plow up the hard ground of your hearts, for now is the time to seek the Lord, that he may come and shower righteousness upon you.' Hosea 10:12

WORSHIP

So, my dear brothers and sisters, this is the point:

You died to the power of the law when you died with Christ. And now you are united with the one who was raised from the dead. As a result, we can produce a harvest of good deeds for God. Romans 7:4

MEDITATION & CONTEMPLATION—Mark 2:23-3:6*

"One Sabbath day as Jesus was walking through some grainfields, his disciples began breaking off heads of grain to eat. But the Pharisees said to Jesus, "Look, why are they breaking the law by harvesting grain on the Sabbath?"

Jesus said to them, "Haven't you ever read in the Scriptures what David did when he and his companions were hungry? He went into the house of God (during the days when Abiathar was high priest) and broke the law by eating the sacred loaves of bread that only the priests are allowed to eat. He also gave some to his companions."

Then Jesus said to them, "The Sabbath was made to meet the needs of people, and not people to meet the requirements of the Sabbath. So the Son of Man is Lord, even over the Sabbath!"

"Jesus went into the synagogue again and noticed a man with a deformed hand. Since it was the Sabbath, Jesus' enemies watched him closely. If he healed the man's hand, they planned to accuse him of working on the Sabbath.

Jesus said to the man with the deformed hand, "Come and stand in front of everyone." Then he turned to his critics and asked, "Does the law permit good deeds on the Sabbath, or is it a day for

IN SOLITUDE AND/OR COMMUNITY

Read	Slowly, several times.
Reflect	What does the text say?
Respond	How does it relate to my life?
Rest	I welcome God's healing and renewal.

doing evil? Is this a day to save life or to destroy it?" But they wouldn't answer him.

He looked around at them angrily and was deeply saddened by their hard hearts. Then he said to the man, "Hold out your hand." So the man held out his hand, and it was restored! At once the Pharisees went away and met with the supporters of Herod to plot how to kill Jesus."

ANCHORING PRAYER

Soften my heart LORD.

REVIEW OF THE HEART

How have I acted in life-giving ways rather than destructive ones?

What "good deeds" has legalism prevented me from doing?

WISDOM

And I gave them my Sabbath days of rest as a sign between them and me. It was to remind them that I am the Lord, who had set them apart to be holy. Ezekiel 20:12

So don't let anyone condemn you for what you eat or drink, or for not celebrating certain holy days or new moon ceremonies or Sabbaths. For these rules are only shadows of the reality yet to come. And Christ himself is that reality. Colossians 2:16-17

Don't let evil conquer you, but conquer evil by doing good. Romans 12:21

TESTIMONY *What is God saying to me?*

INTERCESSION *Prayers for the Church, for others, and for me.*

BENEDICTION

Praise the Lord!

How joyful are those who fear the Lord and delight in obeying his commands. They share freely and give generously to those in need. Their good deeds will be remembered forever. They will have influence and honor.

-Amen-

Psalm 112:1,9

SPACE FOR GOD DAILY

Be still and quiet before God.

Seek the Holy Spirit's filling and

Speak and act from a listening heart.

Actively serve in community with others.