

SABBATH EXCUSES EXAMINED AND ANSWERED – PART 12

Since Jesus Christ was accused of breaking the sacredness of the Sabbath by healing (Mark 3:1-6; Luke 6:6-11, 13:10-17, 14:1-6; John 5:5-18, 9:1-16) and allowing corn to be gathered and eaten (Matthew 12:1-5), then people believe that He really did break the Sabbath. It is then claimed that Christ's example of Sabbath breaking proved that the seventh day Sabbath was soon to pass away at His death, and then Sunday was to take its place in this New Covenant.

It is true that Jesus was accused by others of breaking the Sabbath. But does Scripture itself declare that Jesus actually broke the Sabbath by these actions of healing or eating? The answer is no. You can search throughout the entire Old Testament and you will not find a single verse showing that any actions performed in healing others, or taking from nature just the food needed to satisfy hunger, breaks the holiness of God's seventh day Sabbath.

Since this is true, then Jesus was falsely accused of breaking the Sabbath, when in fact He had not broken it but kept the Sabbath holy. He was the "Lord even of the sabbath day" (Matthew 12:8; Mark 2:28; Luke 6:5), and thus He surely knew how to keep the Sabbath without breaking its sacredness!

But exactly who were those who falsely claimed Jesus had broken the Sabbath?

"And it came to pass, as he went into the house of one of the chief Pharisees to eat bread on the sabbath day, that they watched him. And, behold, there was a certain man before him which had the dropsy. And Jesus answering spake unto the lawyers and Pharisees, saying, Is it lawful to heal on the sabbath day? And they held their peace. And he took him, and healed him, and let him go; And answered them, saying, Which of you shall have an ass or an ox fallen into a pit, and will not straightway pull him out on the sabbath day? And they could not answer him again to these things." Luke 14:1-6.

"And he was teaching in one of the synagogues on the sabbath. And, behold, there was a woman which had a spirit of infirmity eighteen years, and was bowed together, and could in no wise lift up herself. And when Jesus saw her, he called her to him, and said unto her, Woman, thou art loosed from thine infirmity. And he laid his hands on her: and immediately she was made straight, and glorified God. The Lord then answered him (Jewish ruler of the Synagogue), and said, Thou hypocrite, doth not each one of you on the sabbath loose his ox or his ass from the stall, and lead him away to watering? And ought not this woman, being a daughter of Abraham, whom Satan hath bound, lo, these eighteen years, be loosed from this bond on the sabbath day? And when he had said these things, all his adversaries were ashamed: and all the people rejoiced for all the glorious things that were done by him." Luke 13:10-15.

"Jesus answered and said unto them (Jewish rulers at the temple of Jerusalem), I have done one work, and ye all marvel. Moses therefore gave unto you circumcision; (not because it is of Moses, but of the fathers;) and ye on the sabbath day circumcise a man. If a man on the sabbath day receive circumcision, that the law of Moses should not be broken; are ye angry at me, because I have made a man every whit whole on the sabbath day? Judge not according to the appearance, but judge righteous judgment." John 7:21-24.

"And therefore did the Jews (highest church leadership) persecute Jesus, and sought to slay him, because he had done these things on the sabbath day. But Jesus answered them, My Father worketh hitherto, and I work. Therefore the Jews sought the more to kill him, because he not only had broken the

sabbath, but said also that God was his Father, making himself equal with God. Then answered Jesus and said unto them, Verily, verily, I say unto you, The Son can do nothing of himself, but what he seeth the Father do: for what things soever he doeth, these also doeth the Son likewise. For the Father loveth the Son, and showeth him all things that himself doeth: and he will show him greater works than these, that ye may marvel.” John 5:16-20.

These verses plainly show that it was the Jewish church leadership, from the local church leaders all the way up to the highest church leaders, who were falsely accusing Jesus of breaking the Sabbath. These verses also plainly revealed that Jesus proved to them that all of His actions were in full and complete harmony with keeping the Sabbath holy. In fact, Jesus plainly stated that Almighty God the Father Himself would have done the exact same actions on the Sabbath as Jesus did!

Yet these outwardly pious church leaders refused to accept this plain statement of truth as proof. This meant that these leaders were not interested in following the truth, but were only interested in trying to destroy Christ’s influence over the people and also trying to silence the truths on how to properly keep the seventh day Sabbath holy. And Christ’s plain reproof of their falsehoods showing how to really keep God’s Sabbath day holy only made these church leaders more angry and determined to destroy Him.

So you can see that there is no Scriptural proof for the belief that Jesus broke the seventh day Sabbath Himself because He knew that soon Sunday was going to take its place as the true Sabbath day of God in the New Covenant.

But where did support for this particular teaching and belief against God’s Sabbath come from?

Lucius Caecilius Firmianus Lactantius (about 311 A.D.)

“But they alleged other causes for their anger and envy, which they bore shut up within in their hearts-namely, that He destroyed the obligation of the law given by Moses; that is, that He did not rest on the Sabbath, but laboured for the good of men; that He abolished circumcision; that He took away the necessity of abstaining from the flesh of swine; -in which things the mysteries of the Jewish religion consist.

“On this account, therefore, the rest of the people, who had not yet withdrawn to Christ, were incited by the priests to regard Him as impious, because He destroyed the obligation of the law of God, though He did this not by His own judgment, but according to the will of God...” Lucius Caecilius Firmianus Lactantius, *The Divine Institutes, Book IV, Of True Wisdom and Religion, Chapter XVII - titled Of the Superstitions of the Jews, and Their Hatred Against Jesus*, in *Early Church Fathers, Ante-Nicene Fathers, Vol. VII*, at <http://www.ccel.org/ccel/schaff/anf07.iii.ii.iv.xvii.html>, accessed 3-5-13.

St. John Chrysostom (Between 386-388 A.D.)

“But see when. When He had cleansed the leper, when He had repealed the Sabbath, when He had shown Himself King of earth and sea, when He had made laws, when He had remitted sins, when He had raised dead men, when He had afforded them many proofs of His Godhead, then He discourses of meats.

“For indeed all the religion of the Jews is comprised in this; if thou take this away, thou hast even taken away all. For hereby He signifies, that circumcision too must be abrogated. St. John Chrysostom, *Homilies On Matthew, Homily LI on Matthew XV.3*, found in *Early Church Fathers, Nicene and Post-Nicene Fathers, Series I, Vol. X*, at <http://www.ccel.org/ccel/schaff/npnf110.iii.LI.html>, accessed 4-16-13.

“Again He hath brought down His discourse to a humbler strain, continually setting Himself against that which they asserted, that He was not of God, and that He kept not the Sabbath. To this He replieth, "I do always those things that are pleasing unto Him"; showing that it was pleasing unto Him even that the Sabbath should be broken.” John Chrysostom, Homilies On the Gospel According To St. John, Homily LIII on John viii, verse 28, 29.2, found in Early Church Fathers, Nicene and Post-Nicene Fathers, Series I, Vol. XIV, at <http://www.ccel.org/ccel/schaff/npnf14.iv.lv.html>, accessed 4-16-13.

St. Aurelius Augustine, Bishop of Hippo (about 400 A.D.)

“For on that occasion when Jesus appears especially to set aside the Sabbath, when His disciples were hungry, and pulled the ears of corn through which they were passing, and ate them, Jesus, in replying to the Jews, declared His disciples to be innocent.” St. Aurelius Augustine, Bishop of Hippo, Augustine-Anti-Manichaeon Writings, Reply to Faustus the Manichaeon, Book XVI, #28, in Early Church Fathers, Nicene and Post-Nicene Fathers, Series I, Vol. IV, at <http://www.ccel.org/ccel/schaff/npnf104.iv.ix.xviii.html>, accessed 4-16-13.

Pope St. Gregory I (The Great) [Pope from 590-604 A.D.]

“For we read that the same our Lord and Redeemer did many works on the Sabbath day, so that he reproved the Jews, saying, Which of you doth not loose his ox or his ass on the Sabbath day, and lead him away to watering (Luke xiii. 15)? If, then, the very Truth in person commanded that the Sabbath should not be kept according to the letter, whoso keeps the rest of the Sabbath according to the letter of the law, whom else does he contradict but the Truth himself?” Pope St. Gregory I (The Great), Epistle 1 - To The Roman Citizens, about 597 A.D., Found in Early Church Fathers, Nicene and Post-Nicene Fathers, Series II, Vol. XIII, Book XIII, at <http://www.ccel.org/ccel/schaff/npnf213.ii.ix.i.html>, accessed 3-5-13).

So you can see that the teaching and belief that because Jesus was accused of Sabbath breaking that this proved that the seventh day Sabbath was soon to pass away at His death, and then Sunday was to take its place in this New Covenant, is not found written in the Bible at all. Thus this belief is not a doctrine of God taught in the Scriptures, but is instead found to be a teaching and doctrine taught in the Roman Catholic Church. And just like anciently, these Catholic church leaders are not interested in following the truth, but are only interested in trying to silence those who speak forth the Bible truth on how to properly keep the seventh day Sabbath day holy.

Since this particular teaching and belief is a Catholic doctrine, then when any Protestant or non-Catholic believer uses the argument that because Jesus was accused of Sabbath breaking that this proved that the seventh day Sabbath was soon to pass away at His death and then Sunday was to take its place in this New Covenant, in their efforts to try and prove that Sunday is God's Sabbath day today, will find themselves in agreement with the teachings of Catholicism, but not in agreement with the truth of God's holy Scriptures!

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