

John 5:10

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

The Jews therefore said unto him that was cured, It is the sabbath day: it is not lawful for thee to carry thy bed.

Analysis

The Jews challenge the healed man: 'It is the sabbath day: it is not lawful for thee to carry thy bed.' Their first response to a 38-year paralytic walking is legal accusation. Religious bureaucracy sees violation before miracle. The irony is sharp: they care more about mat-carrying than man-healing. Law without love produces this blindness—missing divine work because it doesn't fit categories.

Historical Context

The Pharisaic tradition developed 39 categories of 'work' forbidden on Sabbath, including carrying burdens. This interpretation extended beyond Torah's actual commands. Jesus challenged these traditions, asserting that Sabbath was made for man, not man for Sabbath (Mark 2:27).

Related Passages

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

Study Questions

1. How do religious traditions sometimes blind people to God's actual work?

2. What modern equivalents might prioritize rule-keeping over recognizing God's mercy?

Interlinear Text

ἔλεγον οὖν οἱ Ἰουδαῖοι τῷ τε θεραπευμένῳ
 said therefore G3588 The Jews G2453 unto him that was cured
 G3004 G3767 G2323

Σάββατον ἔστιν οὐκ ἔξεστίν σοι ἄραι τὸν
 the sabbath day It is not it is for thee to carry G3588
 G4521 G2076 G3756 G1832 G4671 G142

κράββατον
 thy bed
 G2895

Additional Cross-References

Jeremiah 17:21 (Parallel theme): Thus saith the LORD; Take heed to yourselves, and bear no burden on the sabbath day, nor bring it in by the gates of Jerusalem;

John 9:16 (Parallel theme): Therefore said some of the Pharisees, This man is not of God, because he keepeth not the sabbath day. Others said, How can a man that is a sinner do such miracles? And there was a division among them.

Mark 3:4 (Word): And he saith unto them, Is it lawful to do good on the sabbath days, or to do evil? to save life, or to kill? But they held their peace.

Luke 6:2 (Word): And certain of the Pharisees said unto them, Why do ye that which is not lawful to do on the sabbath days?

Luke 13:14 (Parallel theme): And the ruler of the synagogue answered with indignation, because that Jesus had healed on the sabbath day, and said unto the people, There are six days in which men ought to work: in them therefore come and be healed, and not on the sabbath day.

Mark 2:24 (Word): And the Pharisees said unto him, Behold, why do they on the sabbath day that which is not lawful?

John 5:16 (Parallel theme): And therefore did the Jews persecute Jesus, and sought to slay him, because he had done these things on the sabbath day.

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