

Day 31 – Mar. 13

Each Wed. night, our adults watch an episode of “The Chosen” and discuss it afterward. We have watched 2 seasons so far, and it has been very interesting to read this particular Immerse study at the same time. Just last week, we watched as Jesus granted permission for His disciples to pick grain to eat on the Sabbath, thereby breaking Sabbath law (you may not work, including harvesting, on the Sabbath says the Law). You can check out the story in Matt. 12:1-8. When confronted, Jesus cites David’s allowance of his men to eat the Sanctified bread from the temple, also breaking Covenant law (only priests were allowed to eat that bread). You can check this out in last week’s reading, or in 1 Sam. 21:1-6.

This always gets me pondering. Jesus looks at the Old Testament (“OT” from now on) story of His own ancestor David and sees David breaking the OT law for a very sound, practical reason. And Jesus doesn’t condemn David for it. This is important, because JESUS IS GOD! If David’s breaking of the OT law offended God, then it offended Jesus. But it didn’t. Not only did it not offend Jesus, He used it as a justification for His own actions of breaking the clear OT law. God Himself broke the OT law!

Now I am not implying that because of this one instance, we can throw out the whole OT law. Jesus cited and upheld it far too often for that conclusion to be justified. But I am saying that we need to listen closely to Jesus’ words that follow: “The sabbath was made for humankind, not humankind for the Sabbath.” In other words, people have to supersede the law, and obedience to it must submit to caring for others.

And I can hear the arguments now. “But Jesus is God just as you said, so He can break His own law while we humble humans cannot!” Good point. “Jesus didn’t throw out the OT law. He said Himself He came to fulfill or complete it.” Also a good point. “Who are we to say we can ignore God’s OT law just because one time Jesus let His disciples eat when they were hungry?” Again, good point.

I am not saying any of these things. I am, however, saying what I have said many times before: Every person draws a red line through the bible dividing what is applicable to our lives from what is not. Nobody takes the whole of scripture literally and tries to follow it all. We don’t condemn tattoos, picket farmers who sow fields with two different seeds, or wear only single-material clothing. We don’t stone our children for disobedience or seek to kill people who work on the Sabbath. This does not mean we chuck the whole OT. But it does mean that we have to approach the bible with prayer, humility, and honesty. Where do you draw your red line? And what happens when someone draws theirs in a different place, as Jesus did? Thoughts to ponder today.