

22 JANUARY

MARK 2:23-3:35

BY REV JEREMY YAP Jesus' mission on earth was to proclaim the Kingdom of God. To do this, Jesus healed the sick, delivered the demon possessed, and forgave people of their sins.

Some of the things that Jesus did enabled a GREATER achievement of this mission, for example, the appointment of the Twelve Disciples multiplied the proclamation of the Kingdom.

However, some things hindered the GREATER achievement of Jesus' mission, including the legalism of the Pharisees and the prohibition of healing on the Sabbath, a day originally set aside to worship God.

Other hindrances of GREATER achievement were people who claim to be close to Jesus, to be family, but who were interested in things that are not of the Kingdom. It is not that Jesus does not care about or love His natural family, but Jesus knows that there is a GREATER spiritual family that is helping Him to do His GREATER work.

Is there anything in our life that is helping to do the GREATER work of Christ and proclaiming the Kingdom of God in our spheres of influence – our schools, workplaces, families and friends? Or are there things that we do that hinder the GREATER work of God?

At one time, it was popular to use the question "What Would Jesus Do?" as a yardstick to make life's decisions. These days, it has been used a little less, but this question would still be applicable. More recently, in evaluating whether what I do may fall into the trap of legalism, I often ask myself this question, "Am I trying to be right or am I trying to be kind?"

As we walk through this year, may we as a church understand the heart of Jesus and together do GREATER works for our Lord.