

Luke 6:1-11

Lord of the Sabbath

¹ One Sabbath Jesus was going through the grainfields, and his disciples began to pick some heads of grain, rub them in their hands and eat the kernels. ² Some of the Pharisees asked, “Why are you doing what is unlawful on the Sabbath?”

³ Jesus answered them, “Have you never read what David did when he and his companions were hungry? ⁴ He entered the house of God, and taking the consecrated bread, he ate what is lawful only for priests to eat. And he also gave some to his companions.” ⁵ Then Jesus said to them, “The Son of Man is Lord of the Sabbath.”

⁶ On another Sabbath he went into the synagogue and was teaching, and a man was there whose right hand was shriveled. ⁷ The Pharisees and the teachers of the law were looking for a reason to accuse Jesus, so they watched him closely to see if he would heal on the Sabbath. ⁸ But Jesus knew what they were thinking and said to the man with the shriveled hand, “Get up and stand in front of everyone.” So he got up and stood there.

⁹ Then Jesus said to them, “I ask you, which is lawful on the Sabbath: to do good or to do evil, to save life or to destroy it?”

¹⁰ He looked around at them all, and then said to the man, “Stretch out your hand.” He did so, and his hand was completely restored. ¹¹ But they were furious and began to discuss with one another what they might do to Jesus.

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Note: As background to the studying the Sabbath, read these additional texts: Matthew 12:1-13, Mark 2:23-27, Exodus 20:8-11.

1. What was Sunday like in your house when you were growing up? What is your idea of a truly restful day?
2. What does the word “Sabbath” mean to you?
3. What did the Pharisees accuse the disciples of when they picked the grain?
4. How did Jesus respond to the Pharisees accusation?
5. What claim did Jesus make about Himself? What did Jesus’ identity as Lord of the Sabbath have to do with the disciples eating grain on the Sabbath? (Mark 2:27-28)
6. Why were the teachers of the law watching Jesus so closely? What law did they think he would break? (Exodus 20:8-11)
7. How did Jesus heal the man’s hand?
8. What did Jesus ask the people? (6:9) Why?
9. What harmful “religious” tendencies was Jesus resisting by His actions and words during these incidents?
10. In these incidents, whose actions were really Sabbath-keeping? Why?
11. What could *you* do to make next Sunday a service to God?