

*"For the Son of Man is the Lord of the Sabbath."* (Matthew 12:8)

## I. Grain-Picking on the Sabbath

- a. In this section, Jesus exalts Himself above three realities held dearly to the people of God: the Sabbath Day, the Sanctuary Temple, and the Scriptural Law.
- b. The Fourth Commandments says, *but on the Sabbath Day you shall not do any work*. The Pharisees had a point to make, because the disciples were "picking grain" on the Sabbath. (The Pharisees say the disciples are doing something that "is not biblical" (or right) to do.
- c. They use scripture to attack the disciples and Jesus counter-attacks with scripture.
  1. "Haven't you read (v.3); "Haven't you every read in the Law?"(v.5); and "If you had known what this means"(v.7)
- d. Jesus makes two points in response to the "know-it-all" and accusatory Pharisees:
  1. The Pharisees did not know the Scriptures as well as they think.
  2. The people of God had more freedom under Scripture than the Pharisees gave them.
- e. Jesus presents three examples justify grain-picking and to reveal truth to the Pharisees
  1. 1 Samuel 2:1-6 – David, a man after God's own heart, and his men were hungry and they went into the holy place, took the Bread of Presence, and ate it. God did not call David evil.
  2. Number 28:9-10 – The priests *work* double duty on the Sabbath in the temple. The Pharisees believed that their holy *work* on the Sabbath cancelled guilt.
  3. Hosea 6:6 – *I want mercy not sacrifice*. Jesus wants human sympathy not superhuman discipline.
- f. David did not consider himself greater than the temple, but Jesus does.
- g. The Sabbath is "for" and "to" the Lord. Jesus is the Lord over everything, no matter how sacred.
- h. Read Acts 10:9-16. God ultimately determines what is holy and what is righteous.
- i. All of us who desire to take the Bible seriously should also think about what Jesus teaches in (Matthew 12:1-8)
- j. There is nothing wrong with loving God's Holy Word, but "zealousness" for the Word should not hinder the work of the Lord.

## II. Questions about the Sabbath

- a. Sabbath – a day set aside for rest and worship. (Saturday is the Sabbath and has not changed.)
- b. There is no biblical record of the Sabbath before the children of Israel left the land of Egypt. Nowhere in Scripture is there any hint that Sabbath-keeping was practiced from Adam to Moses.
  1. The Sabbath was established among Israel to remember their Egyptian slavery and the Lord's deliverance.
- c. Today is it wrong to work on the Sabbath? The Sabbath was given to Israel, not the church.
- d. What does the N.T. say about the Sabbath? Read Col. 2:14-17; Gal 4:9-10
  1. There is no obligation for the N.T. believer to "keep the Sabbath" (Saturday). Though some stress it like Seventh Day Adventist.
  2. "Keeping the Sabbath"- involved no work, no travel, no unnecessary movement
  3. The Jewish Sabbath was abolished at the cross where Christ "cancelled the written code, with its regulations." All other commandments rest on the greatest commandment.
- e. Paul said that each believer should decide whether to observe a Sabbath rest. (Rom 14:5-10)
- f. We are to worship God every day, not just on Saturday or Sunday.
- g. We are called to take rest, pray and meditate on the greatness of our Lord and Savior every day.