



# Jesus, Lord of the Sabbath

## Matthew 12:1-8

**Introduction:** What do you know about the \_\_\_\_\_? The word itself means “to rest from \_\_\_\_\_”. The Sabbath began at sundown on \_\_\_\_\_ night to sundown \_\_\_\_\_ night.

Let’s take a walk-through Scripture and discover what it teaches us about the Sabbath:

Orthodox Jewish website that listed 39 categories of work that was forbidden by the law:

As we come to our text today, we are going to discover that Jesus Christ is Lord of the Sabbath. I mean think it through – Jesus is God in the flesh, and He was the one who instituted the Sabbath at the beginning. It makes sense that He is also Lord of the Sabbath.

### **I. Jesus’ disciples pluck heads of \_\_\_\_\_ – 12:1**

*1 At that time Jesus went through the grainfields on the Sabbath. And His disciples were hungry, and began to pluck heads of grain and to eat.*

Get the scene down in your head...

Notice in our text that we are told that **His disciples were** \_\_\_\_\_.  
Hunger will make you do almost anything to satisfy the stomach.

## **II. Jesus' disciples were accused of doing what was \_\_\_\_\_ – 12:2**

*2 And when the Pharisees saw it, they said to Him, "Look, Your disciples are doing what is not lawful to do on the Sabbath!"*

The Pharisees saw Jesus' disciples pick grain, and immediately their \_\_\_\_\_ spirit jumped into action, and they accused Jesus' disciples of doing what was not lawful to do on the Sabbath.

### **Where did this come from?**

There are three religious groups mentioned in the New Testament. They are:

1. **The \_\_\_\_\_ -**
2. **The Sadducees -**
3. **The \_\_\_\_\_ -**

The Pharisees knew that the Mosaic law said that **NO work** was to be done on the Sabbath.

Dr. John MacArthur describes the absurdity of it all:

## **III. Jesus provides some \_\_\_\_\_ to the Pharisees – 12:3-5**

Sometimes the teachers need to be taught. This is what Jesus is going to do here in these verses. Jesus is going to school the Pharisees.

A. \_\_\_\_\_ and his men – 12:3-4

*3 But He said to them, "Have you not read what David did when he was hungry, he and those who were with him: 4 how he entered the house of God*

*and ate the showbread which was not lawful for him to eat, nor for those who were with him, but only for the priests?*

This account of David and his men is found in \_\_\_\_\_.

**Why did David and his men eat the \_\_\_\_\_?** Because he and his men were hungry.

Charles Spurgeon wrote, "It was clear from his example that \_\_\_\_\_ has no law.

B. The \_\_\_\_\_ – 12:5

*5 Or have you not read in the law that on the Sabbath the priests in the temple profane the Sabbath, and are blameless?*

In this second example Jesus spoke of the priests who \_\_\_\_\_ the Sabbath all the time.

**IV. Jesus proclaims Himself greater than the \_\_\_\_\_ – 12:6-7**

*6 Yet I say to you that in this place there is One greater than the temple.  
7 But if you had known what this means, 'I desire mercy and not sacrifice,' you would not have condemned the guiltless.*

Here Jesus reminds the Pharisees that **One greater than the \_\_\_\_\_** was standing before them. Of course, He is speaking about Himself.

Matthew 12:7 - *But if you had known what this means, 'I desire mercy and not sacrifice,' you would not have condemned the guiltless.*

The words, "*I desire mercy and not sacrifice*" ([Hosea 6:6](#)) mean:

**V. Jesus is even Lord of the \_\_\_\_\_ – 12:8**

*8 For the Son of Man is Lord even of the Sabbath."*

To be Lord over something means that you are its \_\_\_\_\_.

Warren Wiersbe wrote, "Jesus is actually affirming equality with God. God had established the Sabbath."

The bottom line is that Jesus has the last word over the Sabbath. After all, He is \_\_\_\_\_ in the flesh. He determines the practices!

Mark 2:27 - *And He said to them, "The Sabbath was made for man, and not man for the Sabbath."*

Which is more important? The \_\_\_\_\_ or Man? Man is more important. This is the truth that Jesus sought to drive home to the Pharisees.

**Conclusion:** Far too many times like the Pharisees we get caught up in \_\_\_\_\_ and regulations instead of common sense and Christian mercy.

What did we learn from this passage of Scripture? We learned the following:

1. Hungry? Pick \_\_\_\_\_ on the Sabbath.
2. We will always be \_\_\_\_\_ of breaking something found in God's word. There will always be finger pointers around us.
3. Look for the deeper \_\_\_\_\_ in every situation – David and the showbread, the priests who minister on the Sabbath.
4. Jesus is \_\_\_\_\_ than the temple (which was highly respected and thought of).
5. God is more interested in our showing \_\_\_\_\_ towards others than our sacrifice toward Him.
6. Mercy overlooks and isn't always \_\_\_\_\_
7. Jesus is \_\_\_\_\_ of the Sabbath. He controls the Sabbath. He is master of the Sabbath.
8. The Sabbath was made for man, \_\_\_\_\_ man for the Sabbath.