

Matthew 12:1-8

Hungry & Humble

At that time Jesus went through the **grainfields** on the Sabbath, and His disciples became hungry and began to **pick the heads of grain and eat.** (2) But when the Pharisees saw this, they said to Him, “Look, Your disciples **do what is not lawful** to do on a Sabbath.” (3) But He said to them, “**Have you not read what David did when he became hungry, he and his companions, (4) how he entered the house of God, and they ate the consecrated bread, which was not lawful for him to eat nor for those with him, but for the priests alone? (5) Or have you not read in the Law, that on the Sabbath the priests in the temple break the Sabbath and are innocent? (6) But I say to you that something greater than the temple is here. (7) But if you had known what this means, ‘I DESIRE COMPASSION, AND NOT A SACRIFICE,’ you would not have condemned the innocent. (8) For the Son of Man is Lord of the Sabbath.”**

- If Jesus can turn water to wine, and turn 5 loaves and 2 fish into a feast for 5,000 - why didn't he make food for His hungry disciples
 - A Very Real Question: **Lord if You can, then why don't You?**
- **Was it really “unlawful”?** Deut. 23:25 **SLIDE**
- **24** “When you enter your neighbor’s vineyard, then you may eat grapes until you are fully satisfied, but you shall not put any in your basket. **25** “When you enter your neighbor’s standing grain, then **you may pluck the heads with your hand**, but you shall not wield a sickle in your neighbor’s standing grain.”
- **Similar Idea:** *collecting the berries from Blackberry bushes*
- **The Showbread** Exodus 25:30 **SLIDE**
 - David on the run **1 Sam 21** (no slide)
 - Working on Sabbath **Leviticus 24:5-8** **SLIDE**
- **Mishnah - Seder Kodashim - Tractate Menachot Chapter 11, Sect 7**

Matthew 12:1-32 | Jesus is Lord of the Sabbath

“The **Mishnah** describes the manner in which it is ensured that the shewbread is constantly on the Table:

And four priests enter, two with the two arrangements of the new shewbread in their hands and two with the two bowls of frankincense in their hands. And four priests precede them, entering the Sanctuary before them, two to take the two arrangements of the old shewbread from the Table, and two to take the two bowls of frankincense. Those bringing the new shewbread into the Sanctuary stand in the north and their faces are to the south, and those removing the old shewbread stand in the south and their faces are to the north. These priests draw the old shewbread from the Table and those priests place the new shewbread on the Table, and **for each handbreadth of this old shewbread that is removed from the Table a handbreadth of that new shewbread is placed upon the Table, so that the Table is never without loaves upon it**, as it is stated: “And you shall set upon the Table shewbread before Me *always*” (Exodus 25:30).

- **VIDEO:** Actual footage of a priest performing showbread transfer
- They had no problem with SOME work being done on the Sabbath
 - **Daily:** 2 lambs; **Sabbath:** 4 lambs; double the work
 - **Why?** Because the Law had told them they could do it
- What God really wants? Mercy/Loyalty/Kindness, not Sacrifice

○ Mercy (Hesed) not Sacrifice	Hosea 6:6	SLIDE
○ God: Mercy/Loyalty > Sacrifice	Ps. 40:6-8	SLIDE
○ What is the NT principle?	Matt 22:36-40	SLIDE

Departing from there, He went into their **synagogue**. (10) And a man was there whose hand was **withered**. And they questioned Jesus, asking, “Is it lawful to heal on the Sabbath?”—**so that they might accuse Him**. (11) And He said to them, “**What man is there among you who has a sheep, and if it falls into a pit on the Sabbath, will he not take hold of it and lift it out?** (12) **How much more valuable then is a man than a sheep! So then, it is lawful to do good on the Sabbath.**” (13) Then He said to the man, “**Stretch out your hand!**” He **stretched** it out, and it was **restored** to normal, like the other. (14) But the Pharisees went out and **conspired** against Him, as to how they might **destroy** Him. (15) But Jesus, aware of this, withdrew from there. Many followed Him, and He healed them all, (16) **and warned them not to tell who He was**. (17) This was to fulfill what was spoken through Isaiah the prophet:

(18) BEHOLD, MY **SERVANT** WHOM I HAVE CHOSEN; MY BELOVED IN WHOM MY SOUL IS WELL-PLEASSED; I WILL PUT MY **SPIRIT** UPON HIM, AND HE SHALL PROCLAIM JUSTICE TO THE GENTILES. (19) HE WILL NOT QUARREL, NOR CRY OUT; NOR WILL ANYONE HEAR HIS VOICE IN THE STREETS. (20) A BATTERED REED HE WILL NOT BREAK OFF, AND A SMOLDERING WICK HE WILL NOT PUT OUT, UNTIL HE LEADS JUSTICE TO **VICTORY**. (21) AND IN HIS NAME THE GENTILES WILL HOPE.

- **The Pharisees: look to the LAW to find reason to discredit Him**

- Police calls: some teens “**vandalized**” a building **9A.48.090**

Writes, paints, or draws any inscription, figure, or mark...on any public or private building...without the express permission of the owner...of the property

- RCW **9A.84.030** Section 1B “Intentionally disrupts any...meeting of persons w/o lawful authority” (**Kids playing: meeting of persons**)

- **Withered = deprived of natural fluids, shrunk, wasted, dried up**

- Jesus followed the Letter of the Law, but also taught the Spirit of the Law
- Jesus did not want it known yet that He was the Messiah **Isaiah 42:1-4**

Matthew 12:22-29

See and Speak

Then a demon-possessed man who was **blind** and **mute** was brought to Jesus, and He healed him, so that the mute man spoke and saw. (23) All the crowds were amazed, and were saying, “This man cannot be the Son of David, can he?” (24) But when the Pharisees heard this, they said, “This man casts out demons only by **Beelzebul** the ruler of the demons.” (25) And knowing their thoughts Jesus said to them, “**Any kingdom divided against itself is laid waste; and any city or house divided against itself will not stand. (26) If Satan casts out Satan, he is divided against himself; how then will his kingdom stand? (27) If I by Beelzebul cast out demons, by whom do your sons cast them out? For this reason they will be your judges. (28) But if I cast out demons by the Spirit of God, then the kingdom of God has come upon you. (29) Or how can anyone enter the strong man’s house and carry off his property, unless he first binds the strong man? And then he will plunder his house.**”

- Demon possession manifests itself in various ways in the Bible
 - Can a Christian be demon possessed? **1 Cor 3:16-17** **SLIDE**
 - You are God’s temple, the Spirit dwells in you
- Pharisees try to discredit Jesus
 - Beelzebub: Some biblical scholars believe Beelzebub was also known as the “god of filth,” which later became a name of bitter scorn in the mouth of the Pharisees. As a result, Beelzebub was a particularly contemptible deity, and his name was used by the Jews as an epithet for Satan.
- We were children of wrath **Ephesians 2:1-5** **SLIDE**
 - Jesus binds the strong man and carries us off to safety
 - Children of the devil **1 John 3:10** **SLIDE**

Matthew 12:30-32

No Fence Sitters

“He who is not **with** Me is **against** Me; and he who does not **gather** with Me **scatters**. (31) “Therefore I say to you, any sin and blasphemy shall be forgiven people, but **blasphemy against the Spirit shall not be forgiven**. (32) **Whoever speaks a word against the Son of Man, it shall be forgiven him; but whoever speaks against the Holy Spirit, it shall not be forgiven him, either in this age or in the age to come.”**

- **Jesus speaks in absolutes “with vs against”, “gather vs scatter”**
 - Every one of us is actively engaged
 - Either we are advancing the Kingdom of Jesus
 - Or we are in the way
- **You can’t be half in and half out**
 - **ILLUSTRATION: Skid steer: Forward / Reverse (in circles)**
- **The Unpardonable Sin = blasphemy against the Holy Spirit**
 - “Denies me will be denied before angels of God” **Luke 12:10**

Summary:

- **Kindness & Mercy:** we can be so very careful to place the showbread, but mad because someone ate a few heads of grain
- **Letter of the Law** - withered hand; we try to find something wrong when we should be happy that Jesus healed him
- Jesus is not Lord of the Flies, **He is Lord of the Sabbath**
 - If we are born again, we cannot be demon possessed
- **Stop sitting on the fence** and go with Jesus. Help gather up people who need Him. No spinning in circles!
- **Larry/Mark: come up and send us off with some country gospel**