

KINGDOM COME

- 19 -

The Lord of Rest

All Bible verses are in the *English Standard Version (ESV)* unless otherwise indicated

Matthew 11:28-30 28 Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. 29 Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. 30 For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.

- ❖ Legalism is the excessive observance to rule-keeping, commands and laws as the way to be accepted by God.
- ❖ It depends on performance to measure spiritual worth, righteousness and holiness at the cost of love, grace and mercy.

How Legalism works:

- It treats “performance” as God’s standard for righteousness

- Man-made rules and traditions
- Personal preferences God's standard

Matthew 12:1-2 1 At that time Jesus went through the grainfields on the Sabbath. His disciples were hungry, and they began to pluck heads of grain and to eat. 2 But when the Pharisees saw it, they said to him, "Look, your disciples are doing what is not lawful to do on the Sabbath."

- Agricultural society.
- Food was a luxury.
- They were hungry.

3 major religious groups of Jesus' day:

1. **Essenes** –

- Built a community at Qumran
- Focused on holiness
- They recorded scripture and put them in clay jars. In the 1940's Bedouin Shepherds were searching for a stray goat and found them.
- Giving us the oldest surviving manuscripts of the OT dating back to the time of Jesus, older than KJV.

2. **Sadducees** –

- Primarily wealthy, priestly families

- Tied to the temple and political power
- Josephus called them unfriendly
- Conflict with Jesus, especially in the week leading up to the crucifixion

3. Pharisees –

- They believed in holiness and following the law
- They were known as the teachers of Israel.
- They were a minority on the Sanhedrin (judges, supreme court).
- Jesus told us they like to stand on the corner and pray, long robes.

Why is the Sabbath a problem and where does it come from?

- God made the universe. Made creation in 6 days. On the 7th day he rested.
- Not because of tiredness but as a principal.
- Of the 613 laws of the OT, it is number 4 on the big 10.
- God created the sabbath for man to rest and be satisfied in God.
- It was on Saturday.
- Jesus rose on Sunday (1st day).
- It separated Israel from the other nations.

- The pharisees added an additional book of laws
- From potentially over 1500 “fence laws”

Deuteronomy 23:25 If you go into your neighbor's standing grain, you may pluck the ears with your hand, but you shall not put a sickle to your neighbor's standing grain.

- Leviticus 19 – God tells them not to harvest their whole field but leave some behind for foreigners/travelers and the poor

Matthew 12:3-4 3 He said to them, “Have you not read what David did when he was hungry, and those who were with him: 4 how he entered the house of God and ate the bread of the Presence, which it was not lawful for him to eat nor for those who were with him, but only for the priests?”

- 1 Samuel 21
- David is hungry.
- His men are hungry.
- On the run for their lives.
- They go into the temple of God and the priest give them the bread of the Presence,
- That bread that was only for priests.

Matthew 12:5 Or have you not read in the Law how on the Sabbath the priests in the temple profane the Sabbath and are guiltless?

Matthew 12:6 I tell you, something greater than the temple is here.

- The temple was the center of worship, the place of sacrifice, the place of atonement, the national symbol of God's presence.

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

- He quotes the prophet Hosea.
- If you learned what God was saying you would be filled with compassion and love.
- This is the second time he quotes this. First time was the calling of Matthew in Matthew 9:13

Matthew 12:8 For the Son of Man is lord of the Sabbath.

- Son of man – OT designation for divinity.
- He is lord – He defines what it means, reveals its purpose, has authority over its interpretation, fulfills what it pointed toward.

Colossians 2:16 Therefore let no one pass judgment on you in questions of food and drink, or with regard to a festival or a new moon or a Sabbath.

Mark 2:27 And he said to them, “The Sabbath was made for man, not man for the Sabbath.

- Sabbath is a gift designed for your good not a burden designed to crush.

Galatians 3:11 Now it is evident that no one is justified before God by the law, for “The righteous shall live by faith.”