Matthew 12:1-21: “JESUS: Lord & Servant”

INTRO: **POLYANNA**. Sundays were miserable. Fiery sermons. Rules. Stuffy church. Grumpy people. Cold. Wrath. No joy. No rest. Sour stomachs. Ruined our Ham and Fried Chicken. Polyanna’s Glad Game: “It’l be six WHOLE days until Sunday comes around again!”

I. LORD (1-8)

A. Sabbath was made for man, not other way around. They’re missing the point!

ILLUSTRATION: Sabbath Law. 2,000 Paces/Steps. 3/4 Mile. Tent/Food Storage (Dwelling) every 2,000 steps. Loophole. Like a checkpoint. Wave Race (N64). If you missed the check point you were done!

B. The extra laws and fences had done the *opposite* of what God intended for Sabbath.

C. They had caused people to be more stressed, rather than be able to rest.

D. This passage comes right after Jesus promises to give REST to His people.

E. Sabbath was always intended as a gift. Rest. For our good. Not to add to our stress.

F. But, He knows what’s best for us. He knows we need to stop. Slow down. Take breaks.

G. Usually it’s pride, fear and/or greed that keeps us from resting/stopping.

APPLICATION: Don’t cuss, litter, smoke/drink, pregnant, be messy, loud/dirty, yes ma’am/sir, don’t wear hat, diet soda, vitamins, meds, oils, etc.

- Cut grass, Walk, Play, etc.
- Are you resting? Are you worshiping? Enjoying Sundays?

II. SERVANT (9-21)

A. It is good to do good on Sabbath. Serve. Mercy.

ILLUSTRATION: Goes on their turf. The synagogue. Making a statement. Get ready. They may have even set this whole thing up. It’s a trap. Most likely. They do other places. They’re using this guy just to get Jesus. They don’t care about him!

B. Sabbath is about Love. Love for God and others. And more and more disregard for self.

C. Worship. Gather. Encourage. Fellowship. Serve.

D. Love IS the fulfillment of the Law.

E. NOTE: He didn’t actually “DO” anything. Just told the guy to hold out hand.

F. Mercy rather than sacrifice. People rather than performance.

G. Hunger/Weakness. David. Priest gave him his share.

H. Jesus is the ultimate Servant-Leader. God and Man. Lord & Servant. Glory & humble.

APPLICATION:

1. **Is it good?** Jesus isn’t against rituals, traditions, rules, culture, politeness, etc. He’s against false worship, false religion, false righteousness, idolatry and superstition.
2. **Is it loving?** The question is just about “can I do this/that?” The question is: “Is it loving?”
3. **Is it merciful?** Are you serving others in their need. People more important than performance. Care.
4. **They wanted something measurable,** external, storable, evidential, track, reassuring, controlling, pride & self-righteous. Easier.
5. **Jesus’s way is internal,** personal, spiritual, and something only He truly knows. So we have no place to judge/criticize in the end. We can lead/guide/encourage/exhort. But He has to convince and change people.
6. **Jesus knew ultimately what this would mean/cost.** His suffering/death. **v.15.** He was aware and He knew it wasn’t yet His time. But His time would come.