

Reigns

Feb. 14, 2021

Luke 6:1-11

How do we show that Jesus reigns in our life? Do we obey religious rituals and go through the motions of worship, or do we meet people's basic needs and share the good news of Jesus Christ whenever we can?

As we studied last week, Jesus was under extreme pressure from scribes and Pharisees to conform to the religious practices of His day. In today's lesson, Jesus and His disciples are walking through a grain field and the disciples begin to pick some *"heads of grain, rubbing them in their hands, and eating them."* The only problem was that they were doing it on a Sabbath so the "Sabbath police" (Pharisees) were watching.



What were the Pharisees' motives? They wanted to be good and make sure everyone else was being good in their eyes. Jesus answer shows in truth, that God is more concerned about people's needs than about rituals. The Sabbath is about our faith in God, our hope in Jesus and the relationship we have with Him. If you actually were able to watch one of his miracles up close, what do you think your reaction would be? The Pharisees' reaction was rage and anger.

"But now faith, hope, and love remain, these three; but the greatest of these is love." Do you give others the impression that Jesus reigns in our life by showing faith, hope and love? We can love without condoning when Jesus reigns in our life. [excerpts from Russ Wilkins]

Work On The Sabbath (Luke 6:1-2)

- Many of Jesus' conflicts with religious leaders occurred in the context of the sabbath. The Hebrew word sabbath means "to cease". God rested from His work on the seventh day of creation (Gen. 2:2-3). He later commanded the people of Israel to do the same (Ex. 20:8-11).
- The religious leaders (scribes and Pharisees) had developed a long list of what could and could not be done on the sabbath. They charged Jesus and His disciples with breaking their laws.
- Jesus and the disciples often traveled between towns preaching and teaching on the sabbath.
- In this passage we find the disciples gathering some food (grain) from the fields adjacent to the roads they traveled. This was permitted by Mosaic law (gleaning) to allow travelers to satisfy their hunger. Only their hands could be used to gather grain, no mechanical tools like a scythe.
- Some Pharisees observed the disciple's actions and said, ***"Why do ye that which is not lawful to do on the sabbath days?"***
 - Moses forbade work on the sabbath and the Pharisees saw the effort to separate the grain from its casing (winnowing) to be work.
- So, what is the spiritual intention behind the law?
 - ***"Remember the Sabbath day and keep it holy."***
 - Read Exodus 20:8-11

➤ **What does it mean to keep the Sabbath holy?**



Lord Of The Sabbath (Luke 6:3-5)

- Jesus used the Pharisees question to teach them a spiritual truth greater than their surface understanding of Mosaic law.
- Knowing they knew and revered King David, Jesus described the time David and his men were hungry.
- David went to the town of Nob and asked the Chief priest (Ahimelech) for food (See 1 Samuel 21:1-9). Only the 'show bread', 12 loaves of bread placed on the altar in the tabernacle, were available.
 - While this bread could only be eaten by priests, Ahimelech allowed David to enter the tabernacle and take this bread to meet his need for food.
- David believed his need was greater than the legalistic prohibition on who could eat the bread.
- Jesus told this story to the Pharisees to make a larger point; ***"the Son of man is Lord also of the sabbath"***. *'The Son of man'* is a clear Messiah reference and understood by the Pharisees.
 - Jesus was saying He was Lord of the sabbath and equal with God.
 - Jesus is Lord over all of His creation.
- **When do church rules or religious traditions hinder the church's mission?**
- **How can we treat the sabbath (Sunday) different from other days?**



Do Good On The Sabbath (Luke 6:6-11)

- ***"... another sabbath ... He entered into the synagogue"***
 - Luke's gospel moves forward to another event that happened on a sabbath.
 - The fact that Jesus taught shows He maintained a good relationship with the rabbi.
- Among those present that day was a man with a withered hand – limp and paralyzed.
- Jesus used this opportunity to show compassion and to instruct others (including the scribes and Pharisees who were present) about what is proper activity for the Sabbath.
- The Pharisees were keenly aware a man in need of healing was present and they watched Jesus closely. *Would Jesus heal the man and perform 'work' on the Sabbath?*
 - They had no compassion for the man with the withered hand.
 - They wanted to ***"find an accusation against Jesus"***.
- Jesus, knowing the Pharisees thoughts, asked; ***"Is it lawful on the sabbath days to do good?"***
 - ***"or to do evil?"*** In other words, on the Sabbath is it OK to save life or to destroy it?
- Jews were allowed to take emergency action to save or preserve life on the Sabbath, but was this an emergency? Couldn't it wait another day?
- Jesus looked ***"round about upon them all."*** Silence. No one spoke, not even the Pharisees.
- Jesus spoke to the man ***"stretch forth thy hand."*** In obeying Jesus, the man showed faith and ***"his hand was restored."***
- The Pharisees were furious and ***"communed one with another what they might do to Jesus."***
 - Jesus broke religious tradition and threatened their authority.
- With compassion we must place human needs above ritual practices.
- **What are ways you can help someone this week know Jesus?**

Biblical Truth:

Jesus prioritizes meeting people's needs over keeping rituals.

"May the Lord make your love increase and overflow for each other and for everyone else, just as ours does for you." 1 Thessalonians 3:12

