



Luke 6:1-11

# A New Philosophy of Ministry

## The Sabbath & Obedience

### Jesus & the Sabbath

Jesus' handling of the Sabbath proves to be one of the most interesting and intricate studies in the NT. His message was incompatible with their teaching and therefore greatly agitated some representatives of the old order, namely the Pharisees (Lu 6:11).

The Sabbath was ordained to constrain man to order his life around God. Those religious leaders in Jesus' time, reconstrued the teachings on the Sabbath to get their will done.

#### Did Jesus break the Sabbath (Luke 6:1)?

Clearly Jesus did not break the Sabbath. The Sabbath only told man not to work. He was not against instant food such as in His case where they were only rubbing their hands and eating the kernel of the grain? Jesus perfectly fulfilled the Law.

#### What did "The Son of Man is the Lord of the Sabbath" mean?

Jesus was referring to the case when David seemed to go beyond the rules of the consecrated bread (I Samuel 21:6). Jesus implies that David was greater than the law or fulfilled in it a special way and therefore could eat the food. So Jesus here was referring to how He was greater than the Sabbath law. The law was to serve Him not to restrain Him. The Law was made for Jesus not Jesus for the Law!

#### How does a work of healing on the Sabbath prove Jesus' point?

Jesus was to prove His point as much as His opponents their point. But Jesus was right. He proved it by healing the man with the withered hand. God was doing good on the Sabbath. The Law was not to keep us from good but to enable us to do what is good.

### Questions & Discussion

What does the Sabbath mean?

The Sabbath was a cessation of work from Friday eve to Saturday eve. The whole Israel social structure was set up around it.

Should we observe the Sabbath?

The Sabbath laws were bound up in the Israel economy. It had a two-fold purpose:

- 1) Orienting their lives around God
- 2) Pointing to a future Sabbath era.

We live in this Sabbath era now after the work of Christ (Heb 4:7-11) and every moment of our lives are oriented around God's will.

1 Now it came about that on a certain Sabbath He was passing through some grainfields; and His disciples were picking and eating the heads of grain, rubbing them in their hands.

2 But some of the Pharisees said, "Why do you do what is not lawful on the Sabbath?"

3 And Jesus answering them said, "Have you not even read what David did when he was hungry, he and those who were with him,

4 how he entered the house of God, and took and ate the consecrated bread which is not lawful for any to eat except the priests alone, and gave it to his companions?"

5 And He was saying to them, "The Son of Man is Lord of the Sabbath."

6 And it came about on another Sabbath, that He entered the synagogue and was teaching; and there was a man there whose right hand was withered.

7 And the scribes and the Pharisees were watching Him closely, to see if He healed on the Sabbath, in order that they might find reason to accuse Him.

8 But He knew what they were thinking, and He said to the man with the withered hand, "Rise and come forward!" And he rose and came forward.

9 And Jesus said to them, "I ask you, is it lawful on the Sabbath to do good, or to do harm, to save a life, or to destroy it?"

10 And after looking around at them all, He said to him, "Stretch out your hand!" And he did so; and his hand was restored.

11 But they themselves were filled with rage, and discussed together what they might do to Jesus.



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