

Luke 6:1-5

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

1. What were the Pharisees accusing Jesus and his disciples of doing?
 - a. Was it theft? No.
 - i. **Deuteronomy 23:24-25**
 1. This represents an ancient welfare system.
 - b. They accused Jesus of breaking the Sabbath laws.
 - i. Specifically they were accusing them of reaping and harvesting the grains on the Sabbath (verse 1).
2. Old Testament Law:
 - a. The Sabbath finds its origin in the 7 day cycle of Creation.
 - i. **Genesis 2:1-3**
 - b. The Jews first practiced it in reference to God’s manna in the wilderness.
 - i. **Exodus 16:22-30**
 - c. The Sabbath is the 4th of the Ten Commandments.
 - i. **Exodus 20:8-11**
 - d. The Sabbath was a sign that the Jews were God’s Chosen People.
 - i. **Exodus 31:12-17**
 - e. There were additional Sabbaths such as the Day of Atonment (Yom Kippur) and the 7th Year Sabbath for the land.
 - i. **Leviticus 16:31**
 - ii. **Leviticus 25:2-6**
 - f. The 70 years of exile are seen as a Sabbath for the Holy Land because the Jews failed to follow God’s Law.
 - i. **Leviticus 26:34-35**
 - ii. **2 Chronicles 36:20-21**
 - g. Conclusion: God takes the Sabbath very seriously and so did the Jews.
3. Sabbath in the times of Jesus.
 - a. The Old Testament doesn’t explicitly define what is and is not work on the Sabbath.

- b. Therefore the Jewish rabbis developed their own system of Sabbath rules and regulations.
 - i. In the Jewish Talmud there are 39 categories of activities prohibited on the Sabbath. **(Read the 39 categories of Prohibited Actions.)**
 1. The rabbis further expanded these categories into many laws and prohibitions.
4. Did Jesus break the Sabbath Law?
 - a. Yes and No.
 - b. Jesus did not break the Old Testament Sabbath Laws but he did break the Sabbath Laws as they were interpreted by the rabbis.
5. Jesus' response to the accusations of the Pharisees.
 - a. Jesus relates a story from the life of King David.
 - i. **1 Samuel 21:1-6**
 - b. Jesus also declares himself to be the Lord of the Sabbath.
6. Interpretation of Jesus' response.
 - a. Jesus is purposefully revealing the wrong priorities of the Pharisees.
 - i. **Matthew 12:5-7**
 - ii. **Mark 2:27**
 - b. Jesus rejects the accusation that he has broken the Sabbath laws on the basis that the Sabbath was created for the good of man not to shackle man.
 - c. God's Law was given to man not only to reveal the Holiness of God but also for the benefit of man.
 - d. By increasing the demands of the Sabbath the Pharisees hoped to protect the Holiness of God. However they put a tradition of men above the actual commands of Scripture.
7. Conclusions:
 - a. Jesus had respect for, and humility under, the True Sabbath laws of God.
 - b. Jesus purposefully caused conflict with the Pharisees on the issue of the Sabbath to reveal their sin.
 - c. The purpose of the Sabbath was to benefit men not to burden them.
 - d. Ritual and Tradition must never supersede the needs of people.
 - e. We must be careful not to repeat the mistakes of the Pharisees or we will find ourselves chastised by Christ.

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