



The Gospel of Matthew

"The Lord of the Sabbath"

Matthew 12:1-14

At that time Jesus went on the Sabbath through the grain fields, and His disciples became hungry and began to pick the heads of grain and eat.

But when the Pharisees saw it, they said to Him, "Behold, your disciples do what is not lawful to do on the Sabbath."

But He said to them, "Have you not read what David did, when he became hungry, he and his companions;

how he entered the house of God, and they ate the consecrated bread, which was not lawful for him to eat, nor those with him, but for the priests alone?"

"Or have you not read in the Law, that on the Sabbath the priests in the temple break the Sabbath, and are innocent?"

But I say to you, that something greater than the temple is here.

But if you had known what this means, 'I DESIRE COMPASSION AND NOT SACRIFICE, you would not have condemned the innocent.

For the Son of Man is Lord of the Sabbath."

And departing from there, He went into their synagogue.

And behold there was a man with a withered hand. And they questioned Him, saying, "Is it lawful to heal on the Sabbath?" – in order that they might accuse Him.

And He said to them, "What man shall there be among you, who shall have one sheep, and if it falls into a pit on the Sabbath, will he not take hold of it, and lift it out?"

"Of how much more value then is a man than a sheep! So then, it is lawful to do good on the Sabbath."

Then He said to the man, "Stretch out your hand" And He stretched it out, and it was restored to normal, like the other.

But the Pharisees went out, and counseled together against Him, as to how they might destroy Him.

Matthew 12:1-14



Lord of the Sabbath

Background

- *OT Sabbath* – resting from work on the seventh day of the week as a sign of God's covenant
- *Jewish Halakhah* – developed 39 categories of "work" forbidden on the Sabbath



Lord of the Sabbath

1. The Authority of Jesus

➤ *Example of David*

- Jesus asserts an authority and uniqueness at least equivalent to David



Lord of the Sabbath

1. The Authority of Jesus

➤ *Example of the priests*

- Jesus asserts an authority and importance greater than the priests and the temple!



Lord of the Sabbath

1. The Authority of Jesus

➤ *“Lord of the Sabbath”*

- Jesus asserts His authority to determine or even supersede Sabbath law



Lord of the Sabbath

2. The Compassion of Jesus

- Jesus used His authority to show mercy and bring relief from sin's effects
- Jesus anticipated His fulfillment of Sabbath's symbol – ultimate “salvation-rest”



Lord of the Sabbath

Application

1. Come by faith to Jesus to find rest for your souls
2. Beware of self-righteous, critical-spirited legalism