

THE GOSPEL OF
MATTHEW

Date: February 4, 2024

Key Scripture: Matthew 12:1-8

Lord of the Sabbath

- 1) **The Incident:** The disciples picked and ate grain on the Sabbath.
- 2) **The Indictment:** The disciples broke God's laws concerning the Sabbath.
 - Following Jesus we look for opportunities to build up rather than to criticize and condemn.
- 3) **The Instruction:** The desires of the flesh, the desires of the eyes, the pride of life. (How will we be tempted?)
 - Following Jesus we show mercy toward sinners.
- 4) **The Declaration:** Jesus is Lord of the Sabbath
 - Following Jesus we are not constrained by the law, but are set free from the law to do good.

Romans 7:6 ... "*But now we are released from the law, having died to that which held us captive, so that we serve in the new way of the Spirit and not in the old way of the written code.*"

Questions to Consider

- 1) Is there someone in your life who you are quick to criticize and find fault in? Do you need to repent of this attitude and ask forgiveness?
- 2) What would it look like to focus on building them up instead of focusing on criticism and condemnation?
- 3) Is there someone in your life who you are so determined to be right towards that you are failing to act with mercy and love?
- 4) What two actions can you take to show them the same patient, merciful love God has shown to you?

From the Resources

“Jesus deliberately violated the Sabbath traditions on several occasions. He had taught the people that mere external laws could never save them or make them holy; true righteousness had to come from the heart. The Hebrew word *sabbat* means “repose or rest,” which explains why Matthew introduced these Sabbath conflicts at this point. Jesus offers rest to all who will come to Him; there is no rest in mere religious observances.”

Warren W. Wiersbe, *The Bible Exposition Commentary*, vol. 1 (Wheaton, IL: Victor Books, 1996), 41.

The outline of my sermon came from John MacArthur *The Lord of the Sabbath* Sermon #2290, October 11, 1981