

## Lord of the Sabbath

### *Matthew 12:1 - 8*

**Devotional Reading:** Luke 13:10 - 17

**Background Scripture:** Matthew 12:1 – 14

[see also Mark 2:23 – 28; Luke 6:1 – 11]

**LESSON AIMS:** the students will:

- **Identify** the source of Jesus' statement regarding mercy and sacrifice
- **Compare** and **Contrast** the Pharisees' basis of concern with Jesus' own
- **Make a plan** to follow Jesus' example and show abundant mercy in a place or time it would not be expected

**INTRODUCTION:** Matthew records that it happened that Jesus and His disciples were traveling through grain fields. For devout Jews, Sabbath keeping was not superficial or casual. Faith Israelites would die rather than break God's law by profaning the Sabbath. The Sabbath was intended as a day of rest from labor - - a day of eating and drinking and one where it was forbidden to fast. According to Jesus, the real will of God that is expressed in the Sabbath is mercy, especially toward the poor and the hungry.

**KEY VERSE:** *6 But I say unto you, That in this place is one greater than the temple.*  
*Matthew 12:6*

### **LESSON:**

Question of Lawfulness

Matthew 12:1 - 2

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What is Greater

verses 3 - 8

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**Summary:** One Sabbath, Jesus' disciples started picking grain and eating. The Pharisees immediately protested. The Law allowed travelers to glean grain for a meal [Deuteronomy 23:25]. Jesus emphasized the importance of putting a person's need over ceremonial rituals. The Pharisees criticized Jesus' disciples for plucking grain on the Sabbath. Jesus disregarded their criticisms and oral laws. Jesus declared Himself "Lord of the Sabbath, affirming His equality with God. God has established the Sabbath. Not doing good on the Sabbath day is the same as doing evil.

### Questions:

1. *How can the practice of asking questions be an effective tool for strengthening the spiritual walk of another person?*
2. *How will you support ministry leaders whose work consists of serving others on days of worship?*
3. *What would it look like for you to show "mercy . . . not sacrifice" in the upcoming week?*

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<b>DAY / DATE</b>	<b>SCRIPTURE</b>	
<i>Mon., July 7<sup>th</sup></i>	Honor the Sabbath Day	Deuteronomy 5:1 – 7, 12 – 15
<i>Tue., July 8<sup>th</sup></i>	Rest for the People of God	Hebrews 4:1 – 10
<i>Wed., July 9<sup>th</sup></i>	Who Defines the Sabbath?	John 7:14 – 24
<i>Thurs., July 10<sup>th</sup></i>	Hymn of Eternal Gratitude	Psalms 92
<i>Fri., July 11<sup>th</sup></i>	The Sabbath Healing	Luke 13:10 – 17
<i>Sat., July 12<sup>th</sup></i>	Holy Bread for the Journey	1 Samuel 21:1 – 6
<i>Sun., July 13<sup>th</sup></i>	Lord of the Sabbath	Matthew 12:1 – 8