



Chapter 12:1-8
The King of the Sabbath

- Matt. 12:1 At that time Jesus went through the grainfields on the Sabbath. And His disciples were hungry, and began to pluck heads of grain and to eat.
- Matt. 12:2 And when the Pharisees saw it, they said to Him, “Look, Your disciples are doing what is not lawful to do on the Sabbath!”
- Matt. 12:3 But He said to them, “Have you not read what David did when he was hungry, he and those who were with him:
- Matt. 12:4 how he entered the house of God and ate the showbread which was not lawful for him to eat, nor for those who were with him, but only for the priests?
- Matt. 12:5 Or have you not read in the law that on the Sabbath the priests in the temple profane the Sabbath, and are blameless?
- Matt. 12:6 Yet I say to you that in this place there is One greater than the temple.
- Matt. 12:7 But if you had known what this means, ‘I desire mercy and not sacrifice,’ you would not have condemned the guiltless.
- Matt. 12:8 For the Son of Man is Lord even of the Sabbath.”

Observations & Discussion

1. The controversy in our text between Jesus and the Pharisees centered on the interpretation of how God defined “work”—specifically work done on the Sabbath (vs. 2). So, let’s begin by looking at *what* the Sabbath is. Check out Exodus 31:13-17 and answer these questions:

Who gave the Sabbath?

To whom was it given?

For what purpose was it given?

What did God say about working on the Sabbath?

2. How do you think (or guess) the Pharisees concluded that plucking grain (vs. 1) was a violation of the Sabbath?

3. Jesus provided three illustrations to show that the Pharisees strict interpretation of the Sabbath was incorrect. List each below and why according to Jesus the disciples were not guilty of breaking the Law.

A.

B.

C.

4. The difference between Jesus and the Pharisees is that Jesus understood the *spirit* of the Law while the Pharisees were concerned only with the *letter* of the Law. Give examples of how some Christians (and cults, etc.) make the same mistake the Pharisees did (ex. Lev. 19:28 & 1Tim. 2:9).

5. The word *Sabbath* means: “to cease, to rest & to desist (from labor)”. Now read Mark 2:27. While Christians are not required to keep the Sabbath why is it important for you to practice the spirit of Sabbath in your life?