

Jesus' First Trial—Part 1
"Working on the Sabbath"

Matthew 12:1-8 (cf. Mark 2:23–28; Luke 6:1–5)

I. The Pharisees' Charge:

- a. **time = kairos** (καιρός) = "occasion, period of time, or season"
 - i. probably the Spring barley harvest around the Passover
- b. This was not stealing because God's Law is compassionate and merciful, so it allowed for satisfying your hunger in someone else's field, as long as you didn't try to harvest it (cf. Deut. 23:24-25)
- c. The Pharisees' charge was working on the Sabbath
 - i. Pharisees were the Religious Elite, rising during the Maccabean Period 170 BC to 30 BC, and focused primarily on the Oral Traditions and Rabbinic Interpretations instead of the Word of God
 - ii. God gave the 4th Commandment to bring Him Glory and to give man rest (Ex. 20:8-11)
 - iii. **Sabbath = Sabbaton** (σάββατον) = **Shabbath** (שַׁבָּת) = "inactivity and rest"
 - iv. The Pharisees wanted to decide what "work" and "labor" meant so the Talmud dedicates 24 chapters to 39 kinds of work they decided were **not lawful to do on a Sabbath**
 1. Walking more than 2000 paces or 3000 feet from home (cf. Ex. 16:29)
 2. Carrying a load heavier than a dried fig (cf. Jer. 17:21)
 3. Catching an object in the opposite hand, spitting on the dirt, bathing, lighting a fire or candle, eating anything larger than an olive, sewing more than 2 stitches, tying or untying a knot, etc.
 - v. These rules were not just ridiculous they were sinful (cf. Matt. 11:28-30)
- d. They charged Jesus and His Disciples with the work of reaping, threshing, winnowing, and preparing a meal.

II. Jesus' Defense:

- a. **Have you not read** = a sarcastic insinuation that they did not know God's Word (cf. Matt. 12:5; 19:4; 21:16, 42; 22:31)
 - i. **The Sabbath is supposed to be a blessing for man's good and an opportunity for God's glory!**
- b. Jesus Gave 4 Reasons He & His Disciples were innocent:
 - i. **M _____ Needs are Greater than the Sabbath**
 1. Vs. 3-4 recount David fleeing King Saul and eating the **consecrated bread**, Showbread, or Bread of the Presence (cf. Lev. 24:5-9; Ex. 25:30; 1 Sam. 21)
 2. The point is that man's need to live is more important than the letter of the Law (cf. Mark 2:27; Luke 6:9)
 - ii. **W _____ is Greater than the Sabbath**
 1. V. 5 says that the priests work doubly hard on the Sabbath and its not counted as unlawful because Worship is more important than ceremony (Num. 28:9-10; cf. Num. 28:18–19 Lev. 24:8–9)
 2. Arguing from lessor to greater in v. 6 Jesus says He is even greater than the Temple making His Disciples work even more exempt.
 - iii. **C _____ is Greater than the Sabbath**
 1. In v. 7 Jesus again quotes Hosea 6:6 (cf. Matt. 9:13; 1 Sam. 15:22; Micah 6:6–8)
 2. Religious activity is worthless if its not done in LOVE (cf. 1 Cor. 13:1-8; Matt. 5:17)
 - iv. **M _____ is Greater than the Sabbath**
 1. **^s For the Son of Man is Lord of the Sabbath**
 2. Not only is Jesus Lord & Master over the Sabbath, He is our Sabbath rest!
 3. Therefore there is no Christian Sabbath, because every day we rest IN Christ Jesus (cf. Rom. 14:5–6; Gal. 4:9–10; Col. 2:16)