

Jesus is “Lord of the Sabbath.”

Matthew 12:1-14 At that time Jesus went through the grainfields on the Sabbath. His disciples were hungry, and they began to pluck heads of grain and to eat. 2 But when the Pharisees saw it, they said to him, “Look, your disciples are doing what is not lawful to do on the Sabbath.” 3 He said to them, “Have you not read what David did when he was hungry, and those who were with him: 4 how he entered the house of God and ate the bread of the Presence, which it was not lawful for him to eat nor for those who were with him, but only for the priests? 5 Or have you not read in the Law how on the Sabbath the priests in the temple profane the Sabbath and are guiltless? 6 I tell you, something greater than the temple is here. 7 And if you had known what this means, ‘I desire mercy, and not sacrifice,’ you would not have condemned the guiltless. 8 For the Son of Man is lord of the Sabbath.”

9 He went on from there and entered their synagogue. 10 And a man was there with a withered hand. And they asked him, “Is it lawful to heal on the Sabbath?”—so that they might accuse him. 11 He said to them, “Which one of you who has a sheep, if it falls into a pit on the Sabbath, will not take hold of it and lift it out? 12 Of how much more value is a man than a sheep! So it is lawful to do good on the Sabbath.” 13 Then he said to the man, “Stretch out your hand.” And the man stretched it out, and it was restored, healthy like the other. 14 But the Pharisees went out and conspired against him, how to destroy him.

1. Jesus collides with His critics.

a. Jesus offends “the righteous.”

b. See how Jesus responds to their “righteousness.”

Mark 2:27 And he said to them, “the Sabbath was made for man, not man for the Sabbath.”

2. The "Lord of the Sabbath" asserts Himself and reveals His Glory.

- a. Jesus responds to his critics, and to you, with a powerful self-revelation.

Genesis 2:1-3 Thus the heavens and the earth were finished, and all the host of them. 2 And on the seventh day God finished his work that he had done, and he rested on the seventh day from all his work that he had done. 3 So God blessed the seventh day and made it holy, because on it God rested from all his work that he had done in creation.

Hebrews 10:1 For since the law has but a shadow of the good things to come instead of the true form of these realities, it can never, by the same sacrifices that are continually offered every year, make perfect those who draw near.

Hebrews 10:12 But when Christ had offered for all time a single sacrifice for sins, he sat down at the right hand of God,

Revelation 1:13,17 I saw one like a Son of Man... When I saw him, I fell at his feet as though dead. Then he placed his right hand on me and said: "Do not be afraid. I am the First (The Alpha) and the Last (The Omega). 18I am the Living One; I was dead, and behold I am alive for ever and ever! And I hold the keys of death and Hades.

- b. Jesus restores his people with a personal touch of mercy.

3. Respond to him. There is no neutrality.

- a. Will you plot against Him? Reject Him? Ignore His rightful claim over you?
- b. Will you say, "He touched me and made me whole?"
- c. Do you rest in your eternal Sabbath – full of mercy and doing good?

In preparation for this message Pastor John is grateful for the insights of Kim Riddlebarger, Meredith Kline and Dan Doriani



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