

Disciples Pluck Grain

Matthew 12:1-8

Mark 2:23-28

Luke 6:1-5

Sabbath Controversy: Picking Grain

Texts:

Matthew 12:1-8,

- 1. At that time Jesus went through the grainfields on the Sabbath. His disciples were hungry and began to pick some heads of grain and eat them.**
- 2. When the Pharisees saw this, they said to him, “Look! Your disciples are doing what is unlawful on the Sabbath.”**
- 3. He answered, “Haven’t you read what David did when he and his companions were hungry?”**
- 4. He entered the house of God, and he and his companions ate the consecrated bread – which was not lawful for them to do, but only for the priests.**
- 5. Or haven’t you read in the Law that on the Sabbath the priests in the temple desecrate the day and yet are innocent?**
- 6. I tell you that one greater than the temple is here.**
- 7. If you had known what these words mean, ‘I desire mercy, not sacrifice,’ you would not have condemned the innocent.**
- 8. For the Son of Man is Lord of the Sabbath.”**

Mark 2:23-28,

- 23. One Sabbath Jesus was going through the grainfields, and as his disciples walked along, they began to pick some heads of grain.**
- 24. The Pharisees said to him, “Look, why are they doing what is unlawful on the Sabbath?”**
- 25. He answered, “Have you never read what David did when he and his companions were hungry and in need?”**
- 26. In the days of Abiathar the high priest, he entered the house of God and ate the consecrated bread, which is lawful only for priests to eat. And he also gave some to his companions.”**

27. Then he said to them, “The Sabbath was made for man, not man for the Sabbath.

28. So the Son of Man is Lord even of the Sabbath.”

Luke 6:1-5,

1. One Sabbath Jesus was going through the grainfields, and his disciples began to pick some heads of grain, rub them in their hands and eat the kernels.

2. Some of the Pharisees asked, “Why are you doing what is unlawful on the Sabbath?”

3. Jesus answered them, “Have you never read what David did when he and his companions were hungry?

4. He entered the house of God, and taking the consecrated bread, he ate what is lawful only for priests to eat. And he also gave some to his companions.”

5. Then Jesus Said to them, “The son of Man is Lord of the Sabbath.”

Commentary:

I. Jesus and his disciples went through the grain fields on the Sabbath day.

A. The disciples being hungry began to pluck the ears and to eat. The Pharisees considered this threshing wheat, a Sabbath violation.

B. This was a natural thing to do and should have been left unnoticed.

C. Deuteronomy 23:25, If you enter your neighbor’s grainfield, you may pick kernels with your hands, but you must not put a sickle to his standing grain.

D. This was likely wheat/barley/rye, not maize/corn.

II. However, the Pharisees were so legalistic that they claimed this was a violation of the Sabbath observance.

A. This was not a violation of the Sabbath.

B. The disciples had violated the Pharisaical interpretation of how the Sabbath should be observed.

C. God's laws and man's interpretations of God's laws are often very different.

D. The Pharisees were out to get Jesus and any charge was better than none! Fairness and righteousness were not their concern.

III. Jesus gave reasons clearly proving that he and his disciples had violated no law of God in this matter.

A. David ate the shewbread in the house of God without guilt when the shewbread was reserved for the priests.

B. 1 Samuel 21:1-6, David went to Nob, to Ahimelech the priest. Ahimelech trembled when he met him, and asked, "Why are you alone? Why is no one with you?" David answered Ahimelech the priest, "The king charged me with a certain matter and said to me, 'No one is to know anything about your mission and your instructions.' As for my men, I have told them to meet me at a certain place. Now then, what do you have on hand? Give me five loaves of bread, or whatever you can find." But the priest answered David, "I don't have any ordinary bread on hand; however, there is some consecrated bread here – provided the men have kept themselves from women." David replied, "Indeed women have been kept from us, as usual whenever I set out. The men's things are holy even

on missions that are not holy. How much more so today!” So the priest gave him the consecrated bread, since there was no bread there except the bread of the Presence that had been removed from before the Lord and replaced by hot bread on the day it was taken away.

C. The Jews found no fault with David for that major departure from tradition.

D. Human need does not transcend divine law. Matthew 4:1-4, Then Jesus was led by the Spirit into the desert to be tempted by the devil. After fasting forty days and forty nights, he was hungry. The tempter came to him and said, “If you are the Son of God, tell these stones to become bread.” Jesus answered, “It is written: ‘Man does not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.’”

E. Why were the Jews now upset with Jesus and his disciples in regard to this matter of no consequence?

F. The Jews were more concerned about accusing Jesus than about what had been done in and of itself. They were out to get Jesus!

G. Also, the priests worked in the temple on the Sabbath and were not faulted for this.

H. Jesus asserted that he was greater than the temple and his disciples had done no wrong in feeding/serving him on the Sabbath.

III. Jesus said the Pharisees did not understand what the Scriptures meant.

A. If they had understood the Scriptures they would not have condemned the guiltless; that is, Jesus and his disciples in this matter.

B. Hosea 6:6, For I desire mercy, not sacrifice, and acknowledgment of God rather than burnt offerings.

IV. Jesus said, “. . . the Son of man is Lord of the Sabbath.”

A. To the unbelieving Pharisees this must have been considered ultimate blasphemy.

B. Since Jesus was divine he did have regulatory authority over the Sabbath.

C. At his trial Jesus was not charged with violation of the Sabbath.

D. Jesus controlled the Sabbath. The Sabbath did not control Jesus.

V. After all, “The Sabbath was made for man, and not man for the Sabbath.”

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Questions

1. Jesus went through the _____ on the _____.
His _____ were _____ and began to pick some
_____ of _____ and _____ them.

2. The _____ objected and said to Jesus, “Your
_____ are doing what is _____ on the
_____.”

3. Jesus said the disciples were doing no wrong because even
_____, in the days of _____ the
_____, when his _____ were
_____, entered the house of God and ate the
_____ which was lawful for only
_____ to eat.

4. _____ is the _____ desecrated the
_____ and yet are _____. They worked in the
temple on the Sabbath, but they were not guilty of wrong doing.

5. The _____ of _____ is _____ of
the _____.

6. The _____ was made for _____, not
_____ for the _____.

7. _____ of how the _____ should be observed.

8. Of what present day “Pharisaical interpretations” can you think?

9. The _____ were out to get _____ and any
_____ was better than _____ charge.
_____ and _____ were not their concern.

10. Since Jesus was _____ he did have _____
_____ over the _____. Jesus controlled the
_____. The _____ did not control
_____.

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