

August 11, 2019

The New Testament!
Matthew 12:1-13
"Jesus is Lord of the Sabbath!"

Matthew 12:1-13

Introduction

Today "Jesus is Lord of the Sabbath"

A little background!

You remember the last verse of chapter 11?

30 For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light."

Then comes verse 1 of chapter 12

And the immediate question comes to mind, how do these two go together?

The Sabbath laws were heavy

1. The leaders had every right to be concerned about the Sabbath Law just as we should be concerned today

Exodus 20:8-11 (ESV) "Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy. 9 Six days you shall labor, and do all your work, 10 but the seventh day is a Sabbath to the Lord your God. On it you shall not do any work, you, or your son, or your daughter, your male servant, or your female servant, or your livestock, or the sojourner who is within your gates. 11 For in six days the Lord made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that is in them, and rested on the seventh day. Therefore the Lord blessed the Sabbath day and made it holy.

Their concern and our lack of concern should challenge us today concerning what we do on Sunday!

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Matthew 5:17 (ESV) Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I have not come to abolish them but to fulfill them.

2. The leaders knew one of the primary reasons for the exile to Babylon was that they had neglected the Sabbath!

2 Chronicles 36:20-21 (ESV) He took into exile in Babylon those who had escaped from the sword, and they became servants to him and to his sons until the establishment of the kingdom of Persia, 21 to fulfill the word of the Lord by the mouth of Jeremiah, until (so) the land had enjoyed its Sabbaths. All the days that it lay desolate it kept Sabbath, to fulfill seventy years.

Jeremiah had warned the people

Jeremiah 17:27 (ESV) But if you do not listen to me, to keep the Sabbath day holy, and not to bear a burden and enter by the gates of Jerusalem on the Sabbath day, then I will kindle a fire in its gates, and it shall devour the palaces of Jerusalem and shall not be quenched.'"

3. Here are some examples of the Sabbath Law
 - No one was to travel on the Sabbath
 - No load was to be carried on the Sabbath
 - No work could be done on the Sabbath

Thus we come to the end of Chapter 11 and the beginning of Chapter 12

1 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."

They were probably on their way to the synagogue

Deuteronomy 23:25 (ESV) If you go into your neighbor's standing grain, you may pluck the ears

with your hand, but you shall not put a sickle to your neighbor's standing grain.

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?

He speaks to His opponents, "have you not read?"
Works of necessity are permitted on the Lord's Day!

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.

This example is to the point

Work of piety and devotion are permitted on the Sabbath!

7 And if you had known what this means, 'I desire mercy, and not sacrifice,' you would not have condemned the guiltless.

Micah 6:8

He has asked them twice, "have you not read?"

Hosea 6:6

8 For the Son of Man is lord of the Sabbath."

This explains it all

9 He went on from there and entered their synagogue.

At another time in the synagogue the Sabbath question came up again

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.

They are not at the assembly to worship but to question Jesus

"Is it lawful to heal on the Sabbath?"

Why did they ask

—so that they might accuse him

So their question reveals their motive
They had no desire to learn but to trap 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."

Jesus answers their question with a question

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.

Now we come to the man with the withered hand

So what can we learn from this?

1. Jesus did not end the Sabbath
Acts 20:7, 1 Corinthians 16:2
2. Christ allows works of necessity on the Sabbath
You can gather and eat food
3. Christ allows works of piety and mercy on the Sabbath
4. We are never given permission in the Scripture to take a low view of the Christian Sabbath
5. The Sabbath is to be a day of holy rest

Summary

In this teaching on the Lord Jesus being the "Lord of the Sabbath" look at what it says:

1. We are given some liberty
2. He does not give us a license to profane and desecrate the Sabbath
3. He does not give us a license to treat the day as our own, to do with it and on it what we want to do