

Lord of the Sabbath - Matthew 12:1-14

Topics: Bitterness, Blindness, Complaining, Criticism, Envy, Hatred, Healing, Hypocrisy, Judging Others, Legalism, Mercy, Rejection, Religion, Sacrifice, Stubbornness

Open It

- * 1. What do you like to do on your day off?
- 2. What are some ways laws or rules are twisted to hurt the very people they were designed to help?
- 3. What makes certain people in authority behave insensitively or rudely to the very people they ought to be serving?

Explore It

- 4. Where were Jesus and His disciples when they were eating? (12:1)
- 5. What difference did the day of the week make? (12:1)
- 6. What activity were the disciples involved in? (12:1)
- * 7. How did the Pharisees react when they saw the disciples eating? (12:2)
- 8. What biblical precedent did Jesus cite to justify the actions of His followers? (12:3-4)
- 9. What, according to Jesus, did the law say about priests and the temple and the Sabbath? (12:5)
- 10. Over what honored religious symbol did Jesus claim superiority? (12:6)
- * 11. What did Jesus accuse the Pharisees of failing to understand? (12:7)
- * 12. What did Jesus claim about Himself? (12:8)
- 13. Where did Jesus go after clashing with the Pharisees? (12:9)
- 14. What miracle did Jesus perform in the synagogue? (12:10, 13)
- 15. How did Jesus justify His actions? (12:11-12)
- 16. What was the response of the Pharisees? (12:14)

Get It

- 17. What kinds of lawful behavior are Christians often quick to condemn in others?
- * 18. What are some ways we trample over the feelings of others in our quest to be righteous?
- * 19. How do you need to be more compassionate and merciful in your relationships with others?
- 20. How do you use God to justify wrong attitudes such as snobbery, jealousy, prejudice, or selfishness?
- 21. Why are we unwilling to bend rules for others but quick to rationalize when the rules adversely affect us?
- 22. How do you think you would react if an undesirable person (a homeless person or drunk, for example) staggered into your church on Sunday and interrupted your worship service?
- 23. What are some man-made symbols or traditions (like the Pharisee's views on the Law, the temple, and the Sabbath) that we value more than people?

Apply It

- 24. In what specific ways can you show mercy and compassion to a hurting person today?
- * 25. What legalistic rules that keep you from loving people do you need to ignore?
- 26. Without being showy, how can you demonstrate today to a non-Christian friend the freedom that you have in Christ?