

# Questions for Gospel Harmony #29 & 30

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Matthew 12.1-14; Mark 2.23-3.6; Luke 6.1-11

Special Question: What does the word Sabbath mean? When did the Sabbath originate? Why was the Sabbath instituted? How was the Sabbath observed according to the Law of Moses (what was commanded and what was forbidden? Note: be as thorough and comprehensive as you can. Give scripture for all your answers)? In what ways, if any, had the Jews changed the observance of the Sabbath?

1. What were the disciples doing that drew the criticism of the Pharisees and why were they doing it? What two Old Testament examples did Jesus use to defend the disciples? In what way did these examples justify what the disciples had done? Explain the following statements and phrases (Matthew 12.1-8; Mark 2.23-28; Luke 6.1-5):
  - In this place there is One greater than the temple
  - But if you had known what this means, 'I desire mercy and not sacrifice,' you would not have condemned the guiltless.
  - The Sabbath was made for man, and not man for the Sabbath.
  - The Son of Man is also Lord even of the Sabbath
2. Why did the scribes and Pharisees watch Jesus closely? What did they ask Him? What was their motivation? In what way was this man afflicted? How did Jesus defend healing the man? Was His defense scripturally justifiable? How did the Pharisees respond to Jesus' defense? (Matthew 12.9-14; Mark 3.1-6; Luke 6.6-11)

Special Question: After considering these two incidents, which of the following explanations better describes how Jesus justified his actions on the Sabbath? **1)** Jesus was God so He could do whatever He wanted to on the Sabbath; **2)** The Pharisees were inconsistent because they justified themselves and others for violating the Sabbath (and other commands of God) but condemned Jesus; **3)** The Law of Moses recognized that some principles and responsibilities were higher than the Sabbath and superseded its prohibitions.

## Matthew 12.1-14; Mark 2.23-3.6; Luke 6.1-11

### **The Disciples Pluck Grain on the Sabbath**

Now it happened on the second Sabbath after the first that Jesus went through the grainfields. And His disciples were hungry, and began to pluck the heads of grain and ate them, rubbing them in their hands. And when some of the Pharisees saw it, they said to Him, "Look, Your disciples are doing what is not lawful to do on the Sabbath! Why do they do what is not lawful on the Sabbath? Why are you doing what is not lawful to do on the Sabbath?" But Jesus answering them said, "Have you never read? Have you not even read this, what David did when he was in need and hungry, he and those who were with him: how he went into the house of God in the days of Abiathar the high priest, and ate the showbread, and also gave some to those with him, which was not lawful for him to eat, nor for those who were with him, but only for the priests? Which is not lawful for any but the priests to eat? Or have you not read in the law that on the Sabbath the priests in the temple profane the Sabbath, and are blameless? Yet I say to you that in this place there is One greater than the temple. But if you had known what this means, 'I desire mercy and not sacrifice,' you would not have condemned the guiltless." And He said to them, "The Sabbath was made for man, and not man for the Sabbath. Therefore, the Son of Man is also Lord even of the Sabbath."

### **Jesus Heals a Man on the Sabbath**

Now when He had departed from there, it happened on another Sabbath, He entered their synagogue again and taught. And behold! A man was there whose right hand was withered. So the scribes and Pharisees watched Him closely, whether He would heal on the Sabbath, that they might find an accusation against Him. And they asked Him, saying, "Is it lawful to heal on the Sabbath?" — that they might accuse Him. But He knew their thoughts, and said to the man who had the withered hand, "Arise, step forward, and stand here." And he arose and stood. Then He said to them, "Is it lawful on the Sabbath to do good or to do evil, to save life or to kill?" But they kept silent. Then He said to them, "What man is there among you who has one sheep, and if it falls into a pit on the Sabbath, will not lay hold of it and lift it out? Of how much more value then is a man than a sheep? Therefore it is lawful to do good on the Sabbath." And when He had looked around at them with anger, being grieved by the hardness of their hearts, He said to the man, "Stretch out your hand." And He stretched it out, and it was restored as whole as the other. But they were filled with rage, and discussed with one another what they might do to Jesus.