

Matthew 12:1-8 What about the Sabbath?

Question: How do you picture Jesus?

A) Surveys: What was Jesus Like? - Some Uptight Religious dude- **Frustrated- Angry – Super serious.**

B) Now we do have those two occasions in Scripture where Jesus came and cleansed the temple. -

1) Religious leaders – Swap meet – ripping people off

C) Jesus fashioned a Whip - **CRACK** – (My dog – running)

1) Jesus Crack – he is turning over tables.

D) Problem: **You have taken My Father's house and turned it into a DEN OF THIEVES –**

1) SO we do have those two occasions

But most of the time- I think Jesus was a pretty relaxed, easy going guy who was fun to be around.

A) Common people were drawn to him.

B) MOVIE GOSPEL ROAD. - BLANKET – SENSE OF HUMOR

1) Made you right

C) Worried about the Speck – Plank MAN ! – Meant to be funny

D) Don't forget the kids: Little girl in Church **Jesus a man of sorrows..... Looked like you....**

Jesus was the complete opposite of the religious leaders of his day.

A) They were serious – they were uptight. – they were all bound up in rules and regulations- **THE TOP OF THE LIST – the Sabbath**

B) Jesus was constantly breaking their view of the Sabbath – that is the issue here in our text tonight

At that time Jesus went through the grain fields **on the Sabbath**. And His disciples were hungry, and began to pluck heads of grain and to eat. 2 And when the Pharisees saw it, they said to Him, "Look, Your disciples are doing what is not lawful to do on the Sabbath!"

C) Note: The issue was not stealing:

1) They were not accusing the Disciples of stealing because they were taking some guys grain:

D) The Law of God made provision for people traveling through an area to glean enough grain for a small meal from fields (Deuteronomy 23:25)

No the thing that upset the religious leaders was that they were doing it on the Sabbath.

A) What about the Sabbath? – The word Sabbath means rest

B) We read in Genesis chapter 2 that God made the world and everything in it including man in 6 days – on the 7th day he rested! – **Sanctified the Day**

C) Creation: Everything God made was made with Man in mind –

D) Wait until Adam sees – the Chameleon like tendencies of the Iguana

1) Or the Beauty of the Peacock – The Mandarin Duck - the Butterfly –

E) Taste a big juicy peach

So six days the Lord created – including making man on the 6th day

A) The 7th day he rested - Now it wasn't because God was tired – Heavy lifting!!!!

B) No the 7th day was man's first full day on earth – and God spent the day with Adam –

C) God rested from His working and enjoyed fellowship with **His Chief Creation – MAN**

Then the Sabbath was codified in Exodus 20:8 as one of the Ten Commandments. –

A) GOD'S TOP 10 – Work 6 days – 7th day Rest

B) Awesome God – who knows our tendency to over do it and he also knows our **NEED FOR REST – REFRESHMENT.**

C) Put the Sabbath day in his 10 commandments – 1) Smart

Exodus 31:13, 17 The Sabbath was a sign specifically for the nation of Israel –

A) Sign to the other nations that the people of Israel were different – willing to trust God

B) He will provide – they didn't need to work everyday

1) That was the mentality of the other nations – always working

C) But also it was a sign that they were making their relationship with Him a PRIORITY.

1) Set aside a special day to devote to him

D) That was the original intent

But over the years the religious leaders in Israel had taken the Sabbath – this day God meant to be a Blessing – turned it into a Burden.

A) In the Talmud – they devoted 24 chapters on what it meant to keep the Sabbath.

B) There were 39 different violations with varying aspects to each one of those violations.

C) They stated that on the Sabbath you could not travel more than 3,000 feet from your home. –

1) So about a football field.

D) However if the day before you made a meal – and took it and placed it at the 3,000 foot mark from your home – that was part of your home

E) Meant you could travel 3,000 ft more from that point

F) If a rope were placed across an adjoining street or alley,

1) the building on the other side, could be considered part of your house. 3000 ft past that

Under Sabbath regulations, a Jew could not carry a load heavier than a -dried fig; -

A) Anything heavier – carrying a burden – working violation of Sabbath

B) So Couldn't wear false teeth – Heavier than a dried fig

C) Women were not allowed to look in the mirror – see a gray hair and pluck it out – considered harvesting – violation working on Sabbath

You couldn't take a grape and throw it into the air – and catch with your other hand

A) Considered work – Catch in mouth was ok

B) Emergencies } a woman in childbirth might be helped on the Sabbath;

C) If a wall fell on anyone, enough might be cleared away to see whether he was dead or alive;

- If he was alive he might be helped, if he was dead the body must be left until the next day.

D) A fracture could not be attended to. You couldn't set a bone

E) Cold water might not be poured on a sprained hand or foot.

- A cut finger might be bandaged with a plain bandage but not with ointment.

F) The rule was basically this: an injury could be kept from getting worse; it must not be made better.

1) CRAZY RIGHT?

This is what happens when you put Man's hands on God's creation – it gets ruined!!!-

A) Man always wrecks it

B) Like a 5 year old taking out his crayons and trying to improve the Mona Lisa - Bad analogy -

C) Kind of Scary – Not like – I would like to get to know her!

D) But you get the analogy – They had ruined God's masterpiece

Jesus explains the misconception V3-8:

3 But He said to them, "Have you not read {Jab at all they did was read} what David did when he was hungry, he and those who were with him: 4 how he entered the house of God and ate the showbread which was not lawful for him to eat, nor for those who were with him, but only for the priests?"

Human need always supersedes religious ritual –

A) David's men were hungry and even though that bread was reserved for the priest it was ok.

B)that story shows that love is more important than the law, relationship more important than ritual?”

"The Sabbath was made for man, and not man for the Sabbath." – Mark 2:27

➤ Jesus was saying – the Sabbath was instituted to be a blessing to mankind, not to put some undue burden on them so they can feel righteous because they are keeping the Sabbath

C)TO the degree of ignoring their human needs to adhere to some religious ritual –

1)Missing the point of the whole thing.

5 Or have **you not read** in the law that on the Sabbath the priests in the temple profane the Sabbath, and are blameless?

THE Temple priests worked twice as hard on the Sabbath, their supposed day of rest,

A)Since twice as many sacrifices were offered to the Lord on that day.

B)Jesus here is making an airtight case.

1)“Don’t you know history?” He said. “David ate the showbread and was held blameless.

C)Don’t you know the law? It requires the priests to work doubly hard on the Sabbath day.”

6 Yet I say to you that in this place there is One greater than the temple. 7 But 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 even of the Sabbath.”

“Finally,” Jesus asks, “don’t you know the Word?” as He quoted from the prophet Hosea.

A)“Don’t you know the heart of your Father?”

B)He desires mercy more than sacrifice, love more than law, and relationship more than ritual.”

C)Notice the ironclad case Jesus makes here. He points to David—a king they honored.

1)He points to the priests—who worked on the Sabbath.

D)He points to the prophet Hosea—who declared God loves mercy more than sacrifice.

E)In validation of His own actions, Jesus identifies with a prophet, the priests, and a king.

In essence he was saying, “It all speaks of Me, It all points to Me.

A)The point of the Bible: Point us to JESUS

B)Jesus is ingeniously driving a point home to those who had ears to hear.

“I am the King of kings, the great High Priest, the Prophet of God. I am the Anointed One. I am Messiah.”

Even though the Sabbath day was established in the Book of Genesis,

A)The author of Hebrews quotes Psalm 95, saying there *remains* a Sabbath for God’s people.

B)The argument of Hebrews 4 is that the ultimate Sabbath encompasses much more than a singular day.

1)God’s intent was much greater than just to give His people a vacation.

C) The true Sabbath is found in a PERSON – in a relationship with Christ

1)We experience true rest now in Christ!

Does the Sabbath Day still apply to us?

A)Not in the sense that groups like the 7th day Adventist and some messianic groups look at it – Saturday is the rightful Day of Worship.

B)They take a verse in Revelation 1:10 – John says he was in the spirit on the Lord’s day – Say that was Saturday – the Sabbath

C)They combine it with this statement in Matthew – where Jesus declares **he is the Lord of the Sabbath**

1)to say: See Jesus is the Lord of the Sabbath
He OWNS THE SABBATH –

D) IT BELONGS TO HIM – We shouldn’t mess with it – The only day to worship is on Saturday.

The Point of the Passage and the context is not to say that Jesus owns the Sabbath -

A)But that He is more important than the Sabbath and can do whatever he wants

B) Because he understood the true nature of the Sabbath

1) Sabbath was for man – man to slow down – man to be refreshed – man to connect with God.

C) Not a Law – It was meant to be a Blessing!

Some 7th Day Adventist go so far as to say that the whole idea of worshipping on Sunday was evented in 312 AD by Emperor Constantine in Rome.

A) It was to coincide with the Pagan Roman – practice for worshipping the Sun God – on the first day of the week.

B) They go so far as to quote two obscure verses in Revelation 14 and the book of Daniel to say –

1) If you worship on Sunday – worshipping the Antichrist.

C) That mentality completely ignores the scriptures as well as Church History.

First of all after the birth of the Church in the book of Acts we see where the Church met daily for fellowship and the study of the Word.

A) Acts 2:46-47 – Acts 5:42 Acts 17:11

B) But we also see that the first day of the week – Sunday was special - It started with the Resurrection

“Now after the Sabbath, as the first day of the week began to dawn, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary came to see the tomb. And behold, there was a great earthquake; for an angel of the Lord descended from heaven, and came and rolled back the stone from the door, and sat on it.... But the angel answered and said to the women, “Do not be afraid, for I know that you seek Jesus who was crucified. He is not here; for He is risen,” – Matthew 28:1-2,5-6

“Now on the first day of the week, when the disciples came together to break bread” – Acts 20:7

“Now concerning the collection for the saints, as I have given orders to the churches of Galatia, so you must do also: On the first day of the week let each one of you lay something aside, storing up as he may prosper, that there be no collections when I come.” – I Corinthians 16:1-2

Why was the 1st day an important day to the early church, it wasn't to worship the S-U-N, it was worship the S-O-N

Because that was the day Jesus rose from the grave
➤ Celebrating the Real Rest we have in Christ –

“And on the day called Sunday, all who live in cities or in the country gather together in one place and writings’ of the apostles or the writings of the prophets are read as long as time permits. Sunday is the day on which we all hold our common assembly because it is the first day on which God having wrought a change in the darkness in matter made the world, and Jesus Christ our Savior on the same day rose from the dead.” – Justin Martyr (150Ad)

Note: Written 150 years before Constantine's decree

A) Reasons – Creation and the Resurrection

B) Paul made this even clearer

“So let no one judge you in food or in drink, or regarding a festival or a new moon or Sabbaths, which are a shadow of things to come, but the substance is of Christ.” – Colossians 2:16

Shadow vs the real thing – When I come home from a trip

C) And again to the Romans, Paul says...

“One person esteems *one* day above another; another esteems every day *alike*. Let each be fully convinced in his own mind. He who observes the day, observes *it* to the Lord.” – Romans 14:5-6

So No we are not bound to keep the Sabbath on Saturday.

But Yes in the idea that God has is smart – He designed our bodies and he knows that we need rest.

A) Yes taking a Sabbath is good for your relationship with God and it is good for your health.

B) Keeping a Sabbath doesn't save your soul – but it helps your walk with God!

C) He designed us to live in relationship with Him - 1st priority

So when we take a day to rest – and take some extra time on that day to spend with Him -

A)He is honored – and we are blessed.

B)For some it is Sundays – some of us work on Sundays

1)Lionel Richie – Easy like Sunday mornings

C)Not easy – up early – working all day

So for me – Sabbath is Fridays

A)Again keeping a Sabbath doesn't save your soul but it might Save your health

B)God knows we need rest – I work 6 days Saturday- Thursday: Friday off – Rest –

C)I miss a few Fridays in a Row – This week – doing a marriage conference. – Fri/ Sat -

1)Other things – a few in a Row I feel it – Cranky

You might feel- I don't have the time to do that – but this is where the trust aspect comes in –

A)God you designed this for us – you hard wired us this way – I am going to trust you –

B)He will bless that

C)It is sort of like the tithe

D)It makes no sense to our brains to take 10% of our income and give it to the Lord – makes no sense.

1)I need that – add up on paper – I can't do it

E)God says: Test me and see if I don't open up the windows of heaven and bless you and pour out abundance upon you –

1)He does – he more than meets our needs

F)Sabbath works the same way: We do it and He blesses us Spiritually and Physically – TRUST HIM