



Road Trip: On the Road with Jesus in Galilee

Week 11: Controversies over the Sabbath

THE TEXT: Luke 6:1-11

¹ One Sabbath day as Jesus was walking through some grainfields, his disciples broke off heads of grain, rubbed off the husks in their hands, and ate the grain. ² But some Pharisees said, “Why are you breaking the law by harvesting grain on the Sabbath?”

³ Jesus replied, “Haven’t you read in the Scriptures what David did when he and his companions were hungry? ⁴ He went into the house of God and broke the law by eating the sacred loaves of bread that only the priests can eat. He also gave some to his companions.” ⁵ And Jesus added, “The Son of Man is Lord, even over the Sabbath.”

⁶ On another Sabbath day, a man with a deformed right hand was in the synagogue while Jesus was teaching. ⁷ The teachers of religious law and the Pharisees watched Jesus closely. If he healed the man’s hand, they planned to accuse him of working on the Sabbath.

⁸ But Jesus knew their thoughts. He said to the man with the deformed hand, “Come and stand in front of everyone.” So the man came forward. ⁹ Then Jesus said to his critics, “I have a question for you. Does the law permit good deeds on the Sabbath, or is it a day for doing evil? Is this a day to save life or to destroy it?”

¹⁰ He looked around at them one by one and then said to the man, “Hold out your hand.” So the man held out his hand, and it was restored! ¹¹ At this, the enemies of Jesus were wild with rage and began to discuss what to do with him. (Luke 6:1–11 NLT-SE)

THE BATTLEFIELD IS THE SABBATH, THE FIGHT IS REALLY OVER LEGALISM

- The terms **RELIGION** and **LEGALISM** are synonymous and both are enemies of the Gospel of Jesus. Legalism is all about the rules. **Even the rules have rules!**

- ⁵ Every word of God proves true. He is a shield to all who come to him for protection. ⁶ Do not add to his words, or he may rebuke you and expose you as a liar. (Prov 30:5–6 NLT-SE)

- A Few Thoughts On SABBATH

- The Creative Nature of God
- Sabbath was God’s Idea

- **The Sabbath spelled out by God...** ⁸ “Remember to observe the Sabbath day by keeping it holy. ⁹ You have six days each week for your ordinary work, ¹⁰ but the seventh day is a Sabbath day of rest dedicated to the Lord your God. On that day no one in your household **may do any work**. This includes you, your sons and daughters, your male and female servants, your livestock, and any foreigners living among you. ¹¹ For in six days the Lord made the heavens, the earth, the sea, and everything in them; but on the seventh day he rested. That is why the Lord blessed the Sabbath day and set it apart as holy. (Ex 20:8–11 NLT-SE)

- **The Sabbath Weekend...** The Sabbath is a gift from God. It's a good thing! Afternoon naps are a good thing...naps don't need rules. They are good all by themselves!
- **The Jewish Sabbath** was celebrated on Saturday, then Jesus was raised to life on Sunday. Then, as a result of the Roman Emperor Constantine's apparent conversion to Christianity in 314 AD, Christianity became the state religion of Rome in 381 and the Sabbath was celebrated on Sunday. America came along and embraced both the Jewish Sabbath on Saturday, as well as the Christian Sabbath on Sunday and thus, **weekends were born!**
- **LEGALISTS ARE BOLD, COURAGEOUS AND ARROGANT!**
 - **The Religious Leaders:**
 - **Scribes...** Leaders, 40 or older, formally theologically trained, the religious professional, "the Queen Bee."
 - **Pharisees...** The followers of the scribes, "blue-collar" religious leaders, often not formally educated, "the Swarm."
 - The Pharisees would take the teaching of the Queen Bee and swarm around other religious teachers, groups, meetings and swarm, and criticize and kill.
 - **Legalists are bold, arrogant and in your face...** ¹ One Sabbath day as Jesus was walking through some grainfields, his disciples broke off heads of grain, rubbed off the husks in their hands, and ate the grain. ² But some Pharisees said, **"Why are you breaking the law by harvesting grain on the Sabbath?"**
 - Religious people are bold. They will follow you around, get right in your face, and assume if there's disagreement, they're right and you're wrong.
 - They know a lot of verses, will make you defensive, and treat you like you don't know what you're talking about. They're more mature, more well read, and you should just shut-up and obey them.
 - You can be bold and wrong. Just because your bold, doesn't mean you're right.
 - **Legalists use the Bible to empower their rules...** ³ Jesus replied, **"Haven't you read in the Scriptures what David did when he and his companions were hungry? ⁴ He went into the house of God and broke the law by eating the sacred loaves of bread that only the priests can eat. He also gave some to his companions."** ⁵ And Jesus added, **"The Son of Man is Lord, even over the Sabbath."**
 - Jesus say, **"You guys gave a lot of rules, but your rules sometimes don't agree with the Bible.** Instead of arguing your goofy list, let's go to the Bible..." He then heads to **1 Samuel 21.**
 - **We're not talking about this kind of religion...**Pure and genuine religion in the sight of God the Father means caring for orphans and widows in their distress and refusing to let the world corrupt you. (James 1:27 NLT-SE)
 - **Solo Scriptura...** The bible alone is our highest authority. All other books are under, not equal to scripture.
 - They came to Jesus to argue, not to listen.
 - **Legalists are often driven by a critical spirit...** ⁶ On another Sabbath day, a man with a deformed right hand was in the synagogue while Jesus was teaching. ⁷ The teachers of religious law and the Pharisees watched Jesus closely. If he healed the man's hand, they planned to accuse him of working on the Sabbath. ⁸ But Jesus knew their thoughts. He said to the man with the deformed hand, **"Come and stand in front of everyone."** So the man came forward. ⁹ Then Jesus said to his critics, **"I have a question for you. Does the law permit good deeds on the Sabbath, or is it a day for doing evil? Is this a day to save life or to destroy it?"** ¹⁰ He looked around at them one by one and

then said to the man, “**Hold out your hand.**” So the man held out his hand, and it was restored! ¹¹ At this, **the enemies of Jesus were wild with rage and began to discuss what to do with him.**

- **The Pharisees had a rule** that said you could only provide emergency medical care on the Sabbath, i.e., a baby being born or a dramatic accident.
- **Religious people gain strength and influence through the “fear of man.”** They like to make a scene in public (swarming). They are always looking for an audience to pressure you into doing what they want.
 - **The Pharisees use the fear of man to the fear of man lays a snare**, but whoever trusts in the Lord is safe. (Prov 29:25 ESV)
- **They didn’t come to listen to Jesus, but find fault with him, to criticize him.** They were operating out of a “critical spirit.” What is a critical spirit?
- **A “Critical Spirit”...** is an obsessive attitude of criticism and fault-finding, which seeks to tear others down — not the same thing as what is sometimes called “constructive criticism.” The only criticism that is ever constructive is that which is expressed in love to “build up,” not to tear down — it is always expressed face-to-face, never behind their back.
 - **The person with a critical spirit...** usually dwells on the negative, seeks for flaws rather than good. They’re a complainer, usually always upset, and generally have a problem or a complaint about something. They often have little control over their tongue, their temper, and have tendencies for gossip and slander.
- **What Causes a Critical Spirit?**
 - **Chronic Negativity...** We can actually create, foster and live in an atmosphere of negativity. Many times this is caused by harboring unconfessed sin, unforgiveness or bitterness towards someone who may have offended us.
 - Watch out that no poisonous **root of bitterness** grows up to trouble you, corrupting many. (Heb 12:15 NLT-SE)
 - ¹² Since God chose you to be the holy people he loves, you must clothe yourselves with tenderhearted mercy, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience. ¹³ **Make allowance for each other’s faults, and forgive anyone who offends you.** Remember, the Lord forgave you, so you must forgive others. (Col 3:12–13 NLT-SE)
 - **Insecurity...** Criticism is often a subconscious attempt to elevate your own self-image by putting others down. You literally climb over the backs of others to get yourself to an elevated position. Jealousy over the spiritual victories of others often leads to criticism and belittling comments. Church leaders are famous for engaging in this destructive form of comparison and criticism.
 - Because of the privilege and authority God has given me, I give each of you this warning: **Don’t think you are better than you really are.** Be honest in your evaluation of yourselves, measuring yourselves by the faith God has given us. (Rom 12:3 NLT-SE)
 - ⁹ **Don’t just pretend to love others. Really love them.** Hate what is wrong. Hold tightly to what is good. ¹⁰ Love each other with genuine affection, and take delight in honoring each other. ¹¹ Never be lazy, but work hard and serve the Lord enthusiastically. ¹² Rejoice in our confident hope. Be patient in trouble, and keep on praying. ¹³ When God’s people are in need, be ready to help them. Always be eager to practice hospitality. ¹⁴ Bless those who persecute you. Don’t curse them; pray that God will bless them. ¹⁵ Be happy with those who are happy, and weep with those who weep. ¹⁶ **Live in harmony with each other.** (Rom 12:9–16 NLT-SE)

- **Immaturity...** Followers of Jesus must keep their focus on the one they are following, not other men who will often fail. Young and immature believers who have not grown in their own faith, often lean on the faith of others within the Body of Christ. When they begin to notice the flaws in those they are watching, this becomes an unconscious threat to their own sense of victory. Criticism becomes a reaction to disappointment, because their expectations in others have been crushed.
- **Embracing Worldly Thinking...** Instead of letting our thinking and attitudes be renewed by the Word of God, we have too many times allowed modern media to paint a vivid picture of what is culturally acceptable. Celebrity worship, raunchy humor, hyper-sexual normal, This is not healthy behavior for Jesus followers.
 - Don't copy the behavior and customs of this world, but **let God transform you into a new person by changing the way you think.** Then you will learn to know God's will for you, which is good and pleasing and perfect. (Rom 12:2 NLT-SE)
- **The Devil...** As we may realize, the Devil specializes in influencing obsessive behavior. He may use any or all of the above channels, or other techniques, to influence a complaining or critical attitude to stir up turmoil and strife within the body of Christ. We must be on guard that none of us would be used as a tool of the Devil to bring harassment or discouragement upon our brothers or sisters through continual criticism, as the Bible warns us not to "give place" to the Devil (Eph. 4:27). Remember that Satan is specifically called "the accuser of the brethren."
 - Then I heard a loud voice shouting across the heavens, "It has come at last— salvation and power and the Kingdom of our God, and the authority of his Christ. For **the accuser of our brothers and sisters has been thrown down to earth— the one who accuses them before our God day and night.** (Rev 12:10 NLT-SE)
- **IF YOU WERE THERE THAT DAY, WHAT WOULD YOU HAVE LEARNED?**
 - The only group of people who seem to consistently have a problem with Jesus is religious people.
 - In spite of the Pharisee's repeated efforts to prove him to be a "rule-breaker," Jesus always seems to walk away from these battles unscathed.
 - The question that keeps coming up is this, "What are the religious leaders so afraid of? What is Jesus bringing to the table that is so threatening to them?"
 - Some things are worth fighting for. Jesus fought to set people free, not bind them with rules. I want to live my life in a way that sets people free to love God and love others.