

For Note-Takers: Underline any words or phrases which stand out to you. Circle words or phrases that you have a question about.

1. Jesus was asked what the greatest commandment from the Old Testament Law was. Trying to discredit Jesus, the Pharisees wanted to trap Him into contradicting God’s Law. Jesus taught that the true intent of all God’s Law was to love the Father perfectly and to love our neighbors the way we do ourselves. The entire Old Testament Law is dependent on obedience to these two commands. Thus, the purpose, or true intent, of God’s Sabbath rest is to love Him and love our neighbor.
2. On the Sabbath day, Jesus’ disciples were hungry and traveling through some fields. Jesus told them to gather grain so that they could eat. The Pharisees accused them of breaking the Sabbath Law, which was punishable by death. Jesus pointed them to two Scriptures. In one, King David, in the temple, had eaten the bread that belonged to God, which was forbidden in His Law. But God had provided the bread without any sin or guilt. In the second, the priests, during the Sabbath day, will do work in the temple as they make sacrifices to God for sin. God, who provides forgiveness to the people, allows the priests to work on the Sabbath day without guilt. These actions are done in the temple through the provision of God. Jesus then says something extraordinary: something greater than the temple was there. But nothing can be greater than the temple. The temple is the dwelling place of God. Jesus is saying that He is greater than the temple because He is Himself God.
3. Jesus told the Pharisees that if they had understood Hosea 6:6 then they would not condemn His disciples for gathering the grain on the Sabbath. God had said that His desire for His people was not just for them to make sacrifices, but to have love for Him and for others. God wanted His people to know Him in their hearts. God wanted real love in their hearts instead of shallow commandment keeping. Jesus tells them who He is again. He says that the Son of Man, Jesus, is Lord of the Sabbath. He is the Lord of the Sabbath because He is the Creator of the universe who rested on the seventh day. Jesus is God in human flesh. And when He commanded His disciples to eat the grain, He was providing for them in His love and mercy as the Lord of the Sabbath. Had the Pharisees understood this, then they would not have condemned the disciples.
4. Immediately after Jesus revealed Himself as the Lord of the Sabbath, He entered a synagogue and saw a man with a disabled hand. The Pharisees were watching Jesus to accuse Him of breaking the Sabbath. Jesus asked the Pharisees if it would break the Sabbath Law to do good on the Sabbath by saving someone’s life. They refused to answer. Jesus was angry at them and saddened at the hardness of their hearts. The Pharisees were rigid in their external obedience to the Sabbath Law, but they had no love for God and no mercy for His people. As Jesus provided for the disabled man with healing on the Sabbath, the Pharisees plotted to destroy Him.
5. Jesus loved to teach in the synagogues on the Sabbath, as was the custom of the Jews. Teaching was not forbidden on the Sabbath day. While He was teaching in the synagogue there entered a woman with a spiritual and physical disability. Jesus immediately laid His hands on her and healed her with a word. She glorified God for His provision, but the Pharisees were angry at Jesus because this healing had been done on the Sabbath day.
6. When the Pharisees were angry at Jesus, Jesus called them hypocrites. They provided for their animals on the Sabbath day. They knew how to give mercy to them, but would not provide love and mercy for a disabled woman on the Sabbath day. Upon hearing this wisdom from Jesus, the people rejoiced at the provision of God through His power.
7. On another Sabbath day Jesus was invited to dine with the Pharisees. Watching Jesus carefully, they sought to condemn Him. A man who was sick entered the house, so Jesus posed a question about whether it was Lawful to heal this man on the Sabbath. They refused to answer. Jesus then healed the man and asked another question. Would they not save the life of their animal if it had fallen into a well on the Sabbath day? Again, they refused to answer. They knew that

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providing for the life of their animals would not violate the Sabbath Law.

8. Jesus traveled to Bethesda, a place where many disabled people who desired to be healed went. Yet, many of them there were not healed. One man had been suffering for thirty-eight years. Jesus had compassion on this man by providing healing for Him with just a word. But the Jews were angered because the man had been healed on the Sabbath day.
9. The Jews investigated to see who had commanded this man to carry his bed on the Sabbath day, but the man did not know who Jesus was. Then, when Jesus found him, He gave him a command to obey God from now on. After this, the man told the Jews that Jesus had healed him on the Sabbath. Jesus said that the God the Father had always been working together with Him to provide for His people on the Sabbath day.
10. Later on, the people were hostile to Jesus after seeing Jesus provide healing on the Sabbath day. Jesus reminded them it was their practice to circumcise a man on the Sabbath day without breaking the Sabbath Law. Why would they be angry with Him for showing mercy to a broken man by healing him on the Sabbath day? He said that judging by appearances alone would not be righteous judgment. It is what is in the heart that shows whether one is honoring the Sabbath Law.
11. Jesus and His disciples met a man who had been blind from birth. The disciples wanted to know the reason this man had suffered all his life. Was it because of sin? Jesus gave the purpose for the man's suffering: a work of special provision from God would be displayed in his life. Jesus then told them that they must work together with Him doing the Father's works of provision for as long as it was still possible. There would come a time when they were unable to do this

work, but that time would not arrive as long as Christ was working in the world. As long as Jesus still worked in the world through His disciples, He would be providing His light to everyone.

12. After commanding His disciples to love God the Father and love their neighbors by continuing their works of provision, Jesus then performed one of His greatest miracles by healing this man who had been born blind. The man's eyes were able to see for the first time ever in his life. This work of provision by God the Father and Jesus the Lord of the Sabbath was done on the Sabbath day.

Application #1

1. We learned last week that the Sabbath rest is designed so that we can receive God's work of provision through trust in Him. God's command for rest on this day points us to our need for Him. If we try to provide for ourselves instead of accepting God's provision, we commit sin.

Application #2

2. When Jesus was born physically as God in human form, the leaders of Israel had twisted the meaning of the Sabbath. God's intent for the Sabbath to be a time of love for God and love of neighbor had been obscured. The result was a harsh, heartless, external mess of hypocritical works that did not honor God.

Application #3

3. Jesus taught that the Sabbath belonged to Him as the Creator. As God, it was His work to provide for His people on the Sabbath day. The Pharisees and other leaders of Israel rejected this. They did not want to provide for others at all with love for God and for their neighbor. Instead, they persecuted Jesus and sought to kill Him, claiming He had broken Sabbath Law by providing mercy to many people in need.

Application #4

4. Jesus taught His disciples to seek, in obedience, to emulate the provision of their Lord Jesus by continuing His work of love and mercy on the Sabbath and every day. The true meaning of the Sabbath is to lay down our lives in service to others, using the

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provision of God for us to turn around and provide for others in need. The Sabbath rest is not honored by doing no work at all, but by doing a different sort of work. Christ’s work for us of obedience to the Father by loving Him above all else and loving our neighbors is the evidence of true salvation for a Christian.

Application #5

5. Christ’s Sabbath rest comes not through selfish idleness, but hearts that seek to sacrificially work to provide Christ’s love and mercy to others. So, does the Sabbath day exist now at all or did Jesus abolish it? Next week we will look at the book of Hebrews and see that rather than abolish the Sabbath rest, Christ commanded us to enter our Sabbath rest through obedience to His Word. We are to rest in Christ by continually striving to love God and love others every day. “Today” is the day to obey Christ by working to enter our Sabbath rest.

Genesis 2:2-3

- ² And on the seventh day God finished his work that he had done, and he rested on the seventh day from all his work that he had done. ³ So God blessed the seventh day and made it holy, because on it God rested from all his work that he had done in creation.

Matthew 22:34-40

³⁴ But when the Pharisees heard that he had silenced the Sadducees, they gathered together. ³⁵ And one of them, a lawyer, asked him a question to test him. ³⁶ “Teacher, which is the great commandment in the Law?” ³⁷ And he said to him, “You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. ³⁸ This is the great and first commandment. ³⁹ And a second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself. ⁴⁰ On these two commandments depend all the Law and the Prophets.”

Matthew 12:1-6

¹² 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.” 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? 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.

Matthew 12:7-8

⁷ And 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 of the Sabbath

Hosea 6:6

⁶ For I desire steadfast love and not sacrifice, the knowledge of God rather than burnt offerings.

Mark 3:1-6

³ Again he entered the synagogue, and a man was there with a withered hand. ² And they watched Jesus, to see whether he would heal him on the Sabbath, so that they might accuse him. ³ And he said to the man with the withered hand, “Come here.” ⁴ And he said to them, “Is it lawful on the Sabbath to do good or to do harm, to save life or to kill?” But they were silent. ⁵ And he looked around at them with anger, grieved at their hardness of heart, and said to the man, “Stretch out your hand.” He stretched it out, and his hand was restored. ⁶ The Pharisees went out and immediately held counsel with the Herodians against him, how to destroy him.

Luke 13:10-14

¹⁰ Now he was teaching in one of the synagogues on the Sabbath. ¹¹ And behold, there was a woman who had had a disabling spirit for eighteen years. She was bent over and could not fully straighten herself. ¹² When Jesus saw her, he called her over and said to her, “Woman, you are freed from your disability.” ¹³ And he laid his hands on her, and immediately she was made straight, and she glorified God. ¹⁴ But the ruler of the synagogue, indignant because Jesus had healed on the Sabbath, said to the

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people, “There are six days in which work ought to be done. Come on those days and be healed, and not on the Sabbath day.”

Luke 13:15-17

¹⁵ Then the Lord answered him, “You hypocrites! Does not each of you on the Sabbath untie his ox or his donkey from the manger and lead it away to water it? ¹⁶ And ought not this woman, a daughter of Abraham whom Satan bound for eighteen years, be loosed from this bond on the Sabbath day?” ¹⁷ As he said these things, all his adversaries were put to shame, and all the people rejoiced at all the glorious things that were done by him.

Luke 14:1-6

¹⁴ One Sabbath, when he went to dine at the house of a ruler of the Pharisees, they were watching him carefully. ² And behold, there was a man before him who had dropsy. ³ And Jesus responded to the lawyers and Pharisees, saying, “Is it lawful to heal on the Sabbath, or not?” ⁴ But they remained silent. Then he took him and healed him and sent him away. ⁵ And he said to them, “Which of you, having a son or an ox that has fallen into a well on a Sabbath day, will not immediately pull him out?” ⁶ And they could not reply to these things.

John 5:1-10

⁵ After this there was a feast of the Jews, and Jesus went up to Jerusalem. ² Now there is in Jerusalem by the Sheep Gate a pool, in Aramaic called Bethesda, which has five roofed colonnades. ³ In these lay a multitude of invalids—blind, lame, and paralyzed. ⁵ One man was there who had been an invalid for thirty-eight years. ⁶ When Jesus saw him lying there and knew that he had already been there a long time, he said to him, “Do you want to be healed?” ⁷ The sick man answered him, “Sir, I have no one to put me into the pool when the water is stirred up, and while I am going another steps down before me.” ⁸ Jesus said to him, “Get up, take up your bed, and walk.” ⁹ And at once the man was healed, and he took up his bed and walked. Now that day was the Sabbath. ¹⁰ So the Jews said to the man who had been healed, “It is the Sabbath, and it is not lawful for you to take up your bed.”

John 5:11-16

¹¹ But he answered them, “The man who healed me, that man said to me, ‘Take up your bed, and walk.’” ¹² They asked him, “Who is the man who said to you, ‘Take up your bed and walk?’” ¹³ Now the man who had been healed did not know who it was, for Jesus had withdrawn, as there was a crowd in the place. ¹⁴ Afterward Jesus found him in the temple and said to him, “See, you are well! Sin no more, that nothing worse may happen to you.” ¹⁵ The man went away and told the Jews that it was Jesus who had healed him. ¹⁶ And this was why the Jews were persecuting Jesus, because he was doing these things on the Sabbath. ¹⁷ But Jesus answered them, “My Father is working until now, and I am working.”

John 7:21-24

²¹ Jesus answered them, “I did one work, and you all marvel at it. ²² Moses gave you circumcision (not that it is from Moses, but from the fathers), and you circumcise a man on the Sabbath. ²³ If on the Sabbath a man receives circumcision, so that the law of Moses may not be broken, are you angry with me because on the Sabbath I made a man’s whole body well? ²⁴ Do not judge by appearances, but judge with right judgment.”

John 9:1-5

⁹ As he passed by, he saw a man blind from birth. ² And his disciples asked him, “Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?” ³ Jesus answered, “It was not that this man sinned, or his parents, but that the works of God might be displayed in him. ⁴ We must work the works of him who sent me while it is day; night is coming, when no one can work. ⁵ As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world.”

John 9:6-14

⁶ Having said these things, he spit on the ground and made mud with the saliva. Then he anointed the man’s eyes with the mud ⁷ and said to him, “Go, wash in the pool of Siloam” (which means Sent). So he went and washed and came back seeing. ⁸ The neighbors and those who had seen him before as a beggar were saying, “Is this not the man who used to sit and beg?” ⁹ Some said, “It is he.” Others said, “No, but he is like him.” He kept saying, “I am the man.” ¹⁰ So they said to him, “Then how were your eyes opened?” ¹¹ He answered, “The man called Jesus made mud and

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anointed my eyes and said to me, ‘Go to Siloam and wash.’ So I went and washed and received my sight.”¹² They said to him, “Where is he?” He said, “I do not know.”¹³ They brought to the Pharisees the man who had formerly been blind.¹⁴ Now it was a Sabbath day when Jesus made the mud and opened his eyes.