

LUKE I Pharisees Confront Jesus Text: Luke 6:1–11

Controversy and Confrontation Over the Sabbath —Bill Turner

Introduction:

1. **I used to work at K-Mart and we had a store manager who was the big boss...**
 - a. He was a Big Guy, with a Big Personality, and a Big Title
 - b. But my Department Manager was an older man, shorter than me who only had one arm.
 - c. He had worked for K-Mart for over 20 years and was getting close to retirement.
 - d. But the Big Boss demoted my dept. manager and cut his hours and put him in checkouts.
 2. **Some have it all together from the outside—but something is off on the inside...**
 - a. They may be highly successful, educated, intelligent, well clothed and have \$
 - b. But underneath the successful covering there is something missing...
 - c. They use their outward appearances and Intellect to Manipulate and put people down
 3. **Many of the Pharisees were like this...**
 - a. They were intelligent and knowledgable, but also arrogant, Hyper-Critical and condescending to those who did not recognize their “genius” or honor their elevated status.
 4. **This Morning We examine Two Controversies...**
 - a. The Conflict Between the Pharisees and Jesus
 - b. And the Controversy Today of Why this passage is misused and misunderstood.
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I. CONTROVERSY OVER THE SABBATH

A. IS IT LAWFUL TO EAT GRAIN ON THE SABBATH? (v.1–5)

1. **Jesus & His Disciples have taken grain & eaten while walking in a field...**
 - a) God allowed picking grain from a neighbor’s field when passed through (Deut. 23:25)
 - b) The Accusation is Not about WHAT but about WHEN—on the Sabbath
 - c) God gave a day of rest so the people could have a day without work.
A day of worship and reflection, and to be with family.
 - d) But Scribes and Pharisees were not satisfied with that simple prohibition. Work had to be defined. So 39 basic actions were forbidden on the Sabbath, and among them were reaping, winnowing and threshing, and preparing a meal.
 - e) So “by plucking the corn they were guilty of reaping; by rubbing it in their hands they were guilty of threshing; by separating the grain and the chaff they were guilty of winnowing; and by the whole process they were guilty of preparing a meal on the Sabbath day, for everything which was to be eaten on the Sabbath had to be prepared the day before. (Barclay)
 - f) Modern Kitchen Appliance have a “Sabbath Mode” setting to disable features
 - g) This Strict Approach to Sabbath Observance Continues Today w/ Orthodox Jews

“In 1992, tenants let three apartments in an Orthodox neighborhood in Israel burn to the ground while they asked a rabbi whether a telephone call to the fire department on the Sabbath would violate Jewish law. Observant Jews are forbidden to use the phone on the Sabbath, because doing so would break an electrical current, which is considered a form of work. In the half-hour it took the rabbi to decide “yes,” the fire spread to two neighboring apartments.” (David Guzik)

2. The PROBLEM was the Pharisees Had Exalted Their Own Man-Made Laws as More Important than God's Laws!

- a) They Are Accusing Jesus of Breaking MAN-MADE SABBATH LAWS!
- b) They Are Not Strict About God's Laws—only Strict of Their Own Laws!
- c) And Willing to Administer the Death Penalty for Violating Their Own Laws!

3. So Jesus said: *"Have You Not Read...?"*

- a) Some Actually Teach Jesus argument is: Well, David Broke the Law so Why Can't I?
- b) Even Today People Think Jesus Broke the Law—but it's OK because it was for a Higher Good—Human Needs
- c) In Other Words: Human Needs Are More Important Than God's Laws
Therefore We Have to Break God's Laws to Do What is Right

4. Jesus Argument is NOT — David Did It So Why Can't I?

- a) His POINT is: Your HERO David Broke the Law and Ate the dedicated bread that was only lawful for the priests to eat—BUT YOUR OK WITH THAT!
- b) But I eat a handful of grain WITHOUT breaking the law and you accuse me of violating the Sabbath when I Haven't!

5. He's pointing out their Hypocrisy!

- a) He is Not using David as a Flimsy Excuse to Break Law!
- b) Jesus Never Broke the Law—Only the Man-Made Pharisee Laws!

B. IS IT LAWFUL TO HEAL ON THE SABBATH? (v.6–12)

1. Jesus is in the Synagogue for Worship on Sabbath and He is teaching...

- a) Even though He Knows They Are Watching His Every Move... Waiting to Catch Him

2. There is a Man There with a Withered Hand...

- a) The Pharisees Want to see if He breaks Sabbath Law by Healing this Man
- b) Jesus Knows Their Hearts... So He Asks the Man to Stand Before them

3. Jesus Asks: Is it lawful on the Sabbath to do good or to do evil, to save life or to destroy? (v.9)

- a) He Then Heals The Man so that His Hand is Perfectly Restored!
- b) Healing Him Miraculously in Front of Everyone in the Synagogue!
- c) There is No Denying Jesus Healed this Man instantly and Miraculously

4. But Notice the Reaction of the Pharisees... (v.10–11)

They Were *"Filled with Rage and discussed with one another what they might do to Jesus.!" (6:11)*

C. IS IT WRONG TO DO WHAT IS RIGHT?

1. Jesus sharpens this issue with a question (v.9)

- a) *Is it lawful on the Sabbath to do good or to do evil, to save life or to destroy?"*

2. Notice the Implications of What Jesus is Asking...

- a) Jesus is about to do something good—to heal a man's crippled arm!
The Pharisees are Plotting to do Evil—to Destroy Jesus!
- b) Jesus is Giving Life on the Sabbath — while the Pharisees are Seeking to Destroy His Life on the Sabbath!

3. **The Pharisees had Framed the Sabbath into a list of Negative Rules —And Turning a Day of Rest into a Day of Work Just to keep it!**
 4. **But Jesus Shows How to Use the Sabbath for the Good That They Could and Should Do.**
 5. **The Sabbath was to give rest, and peace, restoration and communion. Jesus is Giving All These To a Man By Healing his crippled arm.**
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II. LESSONS FOR US TODAY

A. HYPOCRITES ARE HYPER-CRITICAL ABOUT THE SMALLEST DETAILS

1. **By Being Critical of Others They Justify Themselves**
 - a) If They Find Something Wrong in You —
—They Can Think There is Something Good in Them
 - b) By Putting Others Down — They Are Lifting Themselves Up
2. **But By Constantly Looking for Specks in Someone Else’s Eye— They Could See the Massive Beam in their Own Eye!**
3. **Jesus is Giving Life on the Sabbath Day—While They Are Seeking to Destroy His Life on the Sabbath Day!**

B. PHARISEES THINK THEY KNOW BETTER THAN GOD SO THEY MAKE THIER OWN RULES

1. **As Strict as they were on the smallest details you would think they were strict on all of God’s laws—but they weren’t**
2. **They Were Not Strict for God’s Laws—but for their own Man-Made Laws!**
 - a) Which is Why they were Hyper-Critical on their Man-Made Sabbath Laws.
 - b) But Totally Indifferent to their Love of Greed and Envy and Power, Jealousy
3. **They Strained at a gnat but swallowed a camel...Then Virtue Signal How Good They Are By How Strict They Are With their Own Man-Made Rules!**
4. **The Pharisees Rejected God’s Way of making us righteous in Christ**
5. **By Choosing their Own Form of Righteousness they liked better**

C. JESUS NEVER ONCE BROKE GOD’S LAW

1. **Jesus Never Broke God’s Law—only the man-made laws that the Scribes and Pharisees had elevated as if they were God’s laws**
2. **But Many Have Misinterpreted this Passage to teach something it doesn’t That Jesus Broke the Law—But it Was For a Higher Good**
 - a) Some Teach That Jesus Had to Break the Sabbath Law to Do the “Right Thing”
 - b) That Human Needs Are More Important Than God’s Law...
 - c) So Jesus Had to Break God’s Law to Meet the Higher Good of Man’s Needs
3. **This is How They Teach it: “Jesus Broke the Law for Love!”**
 - a) This is their New Theology!

- b) We Have to Break God's Law for Love!
 - c) It is for Love Then it is More Important Than God!
- 4. They Want to Turn Christianity into a Form of Neo-Humanism that places Man's Needs as the Highest Good in the Universe.**
- a) And Become the New Pharisees Who Create a New Doctrine of Our Own Rules
 - b) Their Own Form of Righteousness which Makes OUR Needs the Highest Good in the Universe.
- 5. Jesus Did NOT "Break the Law for Love" – He Kept it out of love!**
- a) Love for the Father and Love For Us!
 - b) Otherwise Jesus Would Not Be the Perfect Atoning Sacrifice for Sin! (**Heb. 4:14–15**)

D. JESUS IS OUR SABBATH REST

- 1. Jesus Never Once Broke the Law of God—He Kept it Perfectly & Fulfilled it**
- 2. We Couldn't Keep God's Laws Perfectly—**
So We Were Under the Penalty of the Law which was Death
- a) PHYSICAL Death, SPIRITUAL Death, JUDICIAL Death
- 3. But Jesus Did For Us What We Could NOT Do For Ourselves...
 Jesus Fulfilled the Righteous Requirements of the Law
 —down to the smallest detail (**Matthew 5:17–18**)**
- a) Not One Jot or Tittle Would be Changed or excluded from the Law
 - b) NIV: "not the smallest letter, not the least stroke of a pen"
 - c) Jesus Fulfilled Every Part of the Law down to the smallest detail and letter and never once broke the law—He Kept the Law for the Father and For Us!
- 4. Then He Paid the Ultimate Price of the Law—
 —He Paid Our Debt in Full by His Blood on the Cross.**
- a) Not Just Some of His Blood - From the Whipping and Scourging
 - b) Or the Crown of Thorns piercing his head
 - c) Or His Hands and Feet Pierced with Nails — But He Was Pierced in His Side
- 5. Jesus GAVE IT ALL to PAY IT ALL for ALL OUR SINS
 And Now Jesus is Our Sabbath Rest.**
- a) Isaiah said: There is no rest for the Wicked—
 - b) They are under condemnation w/ no where to hide from Almighty God.
 - c) There is No Rest from Guilt, or Shame in the World...
 - d) This is why there are so many modern day pharisees.
 - e) Virtue Signaling to be a "good person" to Cover their Guilt and Shame.
 - f) But They Can Never Be WOKE Enough, or GOOD Enough, or VIRTUOUS Enough
- 6. There is no Refuge FROM God — There is Only Refuge IN God.**

CONCLUSION:

The Rest and Peace that Surpasses Understanding is only in Christ (Matt. 11:28–29)