

Mark 2:23-28

One Sabbath he was going through the grain fields, and as they made their way, his disciples began to pluck heads of grain. And the Pharisees were saying to him, "Look, why are they doing what is not lawful on the Sabbath?" And he said to them, "Have you never read what David did, when he was in need and was hungry, he and those who were with him: how he entered the house of God, in the time of Abiathar the high priest, and ate the bread of the Presence, which it is not lawful for any but the priests to eat, and also gave it to those who were with him?" And he said to them, "The Sabbath was made for man, not man for the Sabbath. So the Son of Man is lord even of the Sabbath."

Matthew 12:7

And if you had known what this means, 'I desire mercy, and not sacrifice,' you would not have condemned the guiltless

Doctrinal Teaching Points

1. The Sabbath was made for man and not man for the Sabbath.
2. Bible stories should be used as precedents.

Practical Application

1. Let's not miss the spirit of the law by keeping the letter of the law.

Questions From The Text

1. Of what were the Pharisees accusing Jesus' disciples?

Not of stealing, but of working on the Sabbath. The law required that some grain be left (Deuteronomy 23:25; Leviticus 19:9-10). It would seem the Pharisees considered that the plucking of a few ears of grain was reaping, that rubbing them together was threshing, and that blowing away chaff was winnowing. Therefore, they concluded, the disciples were "working" on the Sabbath.

2. How did the Lord answer their accusation?

See Mark 2:25-28

3. What did the Lord say concerning the Sabbath? Why did the Lord say to keep the Sabbath? Is the Sabbath given as a law in the New Testament?

He was saying that you must distinguish between ceremonial/civil law and moral law. It forces man to rest and give him time to think about God. It also protected servants who needed rest. It is not given as a law in the New Testament

4. How might we miss the spirit of the law?

By keeping the letter of the law, as the Pharisees did.

5. What is the difference between a regulatory law and a moral law? Give an example of

each.

A regulatory law is a civil law made for the good of a community (e.g., speed limits). A moral law is a law of God (e.g., "Do not commit adultery").

6. What is it called when a moral law is broken and justified by circumstances?

Situation ethics.

Further Discussion

1. Read 1 Samuel 21:1-6 to refresh your memory of the "David story." Did the Lord affirm or disclaim this account?
2. Should we give thanks publicly for our food?

memorize

- "Jesus said, 'The Sabbath was made for man, and not man for the Sabbath. Therefore the Son of Man is also Lord of the Sabbath.'" (Mark 2:27-28).