

THE KING DECLARES HE IS LORD OF THE SABBATH
(Matthew 12:1-8)

- I. The DEED (Matt. 12:1)
 - A. It occurred AROUND the same TIME
 - 1. They were WALKING through the GRAIN fields
 - 2. They were PLUCKING heads of grain to EAT (Deut. 23:25)
 - B. It happened on the SABBATH
 - 1. Law FORBADE doing any WORK on the Sabbath (Ex. 31:15)
 - 2. Tradition added THOUSANDS of RESTRICTIONS
 - 3. Rather than a day of REST, it had become the HARDEST day of the week

- II. The DENUNCIATION (Matt. 12:2)
 - A. Critics called it to JESUS' ATTENTION
 - B. They accused the disciples of BREAKING the LAW
 - 1. Making a FALSE charge incurred the PENALTY they had sought for the ACCUSED (Deut. 19:19-20)
 - 2. Committed BLASPHEMY by making MAN'S TRADITIONS equal to GOD'S LAW (cf. Matt. 15:9)

III. The DEFENCE (Matt. 12:3-5)

A. He uses an example from DAVID to argue from APPARENT CONTRADICTION

1. It was UNLAWFUL for them to EAT the bread
2. They ATE the bread with the BLESSING of the priests

B. He uses as an example the MINISTRY of the PRIESTS to argue from the LESSER to the GREATER

1. EVERY Sabbath, the priests do TWICE the work of other days
2. They were INNOCENT because it was the work of the TEMPLE

IV. The DECLARATION (Matt. 12:6-8)

A. “Something GREATER than the TEMPLE is HERE”

1. Even the work of the PRIESTS is INSUFFICIENT
2. The COMPASSIONATE would not condemn the INNOCENT

B. He proclaimed He is “LORD of the SABBATH”

1. The Sabbath Law is merely CEREMONIAL
2. The Sabbath Law is not REPEATED in the NT