

QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION

1. How does the Pharisee's preoccupation with "position"—and their own bias—influence their ability to accept and understand Jesus' teaching?
2. How do wrong motives impact today's news coverage, curriculum in the schools, worship in the church and receptivity to the gospel?
3. What point was Jesus trying to make to them with the examples of David and the Priests?
4. Did Jesus place any limitations on that which could be done on the Sabbath? If so, what limitations?

SUMMARY:

The criticism aimed at Jesus concerning the grain was not the eating of it, but rather the gathering of it on the Sabbath (Exodus 34:21). Over and over as we read in Luke chapters 6, 13, 14 and John chapters 5, 7, 9, Jesus was challenged on his right to heal on the Sabbath. As the golden text claims, Jesus revealed his greater authority over the Pharisees along with God's humanitarian concern (Exodus 23:12 and Matthew 12:11-12). And the fact is that it has always been right to do good on the Sabbath. (Note: After the resurrection the church began to meet on the Lord's day, the first day of the week, rather than the seventh day. The Lord's day replaced the Sabbath as the believers gathered to remember the resurrection, but the meaning of the Sabbath as a time for spiritual and physical refreshment remains significant for us today.

NOTES:

APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN CHURCH

Bible Lesson #10

December 7, 2014

Fourth Quarter

JESUS, LORD OF THE SABBATH

LESSON TEXT: Matthew 12:1-13

LESSON SETTING: In the grain fields.

TIME: One Sabbath day.

I. THE PHARISEES' ACCUSATION. Matthew 12:1-2

- A. Criticism (vs. 2) Matthew 9:11; Luke 15:2; 19:7; John 6:41
- B. The Law (vs. 2) Luke 13:14; John 5:10

II. JESUS' ANSWER. Matthew 12:3-8

- A. Ignorance of the Word (vs. 3) Matthew 22:39; 2 Corinthians 3:15
- B. Examples Given:
 1. David (vs. 3-4) Exodus 29:32-33; 1 Samuel 21:6
 2. Priests (vs. 5)
 3. Jesus, Lord of Sabbath (vs. 8) Luke 6:5; Acts 2:36

III. JESUS' ACTION. Matthew 12:9-13

- A. Human Life is Precious (vs. 12a) Matthew 6:25; 10:31
- B. Doing Good on Sabbath (vs. 12b) Mark 6:2; John 5:9; 7:23; 9:14

GOLDEN TEXT: *THE SON OF MAN IS LORD ALSO OF THE SABBATH.* Mark 2:28

NEXT SUNDAY'S LESSON: Mark 7:1-23

SUPPLEMENTAL REFERENCES: Psalm 19:7-14; John 5:32-47

QUARTERLY THEME: Christ - King and Savior

TOPIC: JESUS AND THE WORD

INTRODUCTION:

Some of the things practiced by the Israelites in the traditions which were added by the leaders were not bad in themselves. In fact many of those things such as the washing of our hands and the washing of pots and pans, etc., are taught and practiced in our generation, a sanitary-conscious generation. However, as good as they are in themselves they cannot be applied as part of God's law. These things have nothing to do with the heart-relationship with God which is the thing that is of utmost importance.

Just as the Israelites sought to change the meaning and intent of God's law to fit their own ideas (vs. 10-13) so likewise today people would try to apply God's law to fit their own ideas. Let us beware that we do not become like the Pharisees but rather that we be obedient to the Word of God as He has given it to us. Paul wrote that these things were our examples that we should not fall into the same errors as the Israelites. (1 Corinthians 10:6-11)

CENTRAL TRUTH: Following the Word of God leads to successful Christian living.

GOLDEN TEXT: *HEAVEN AND EARTH SHALL PASS AWAY, BUT MY WORDS SHALL NOT PASS AWAY.*

Matthew 24:35

Jesus made it very plain when He made this statement, how enduring God's Word really is. The fact is that it never had and never will change. Men today would like to say that times have changed so we have to apply the meaning of God's Word to fit these changes. Nothing could be so far from the truth.

The Word also tells us that Jesus is the same yesterday, today and forever. (Hebrews 13:8) Just as Jesus never changes, so also the Word never changes. It is a fearful thing that those who change the meaning of God's Word for this, a perverse and very sinful generation, shall be found wanting on that great day of Judgment. It will then be too late to realize that this generation and the world shall indeed be passed away, but God's Word will still endure and shall be the measuring stick for God's judgment.

DAILY BIBLE READINGS FOR THE WEEK OF December 8 – 14

M. Word of Conviction. 2 Kings 22:8-19

T. Word of God. Psalm 119:105-112

W. *Jesus and the Word. Mark 7:1-23

T. Word of Truth. John 17:14-26

F. Word of Life. Philippians 2:9-16

S. Word of Christ. Colossians 3:5-16

S. Word of Inspiration. 2 Timothy 3:10-17