

Luke 6:1-11

Jesus and the Sabbath



The text – Luke 6: 1-11

1. Read Luke 6:1-11. What the disciples were doing in 6:1 was permissible by law (Deuteronomy 23:24-25). They were not stealing. Nevertheless, in 6:2 and 6:9, questions are asked about what is “lawful”. What is the issue at stake?
2. In Luke 6:3-4, Jesus reminds the Pharisees of an event from the life of David recorded in 1 Samuel 21:1-6. Why is this event important?
3. What does Jesus mean when he says “The Son of Man is Lord of the Sabbath”? Jesus frequently refers to himself as the Son of Man. What does this name mean?
4. What happens in Luke 6:6-11 is wonderful! So why are the Pharisees and teachers of the law “furious”? Why do they begin plotting against Jesus?

The Scriptures – Luke 6:1-11 as a portion of the Scriptures

5. What was the meaning of the Sabbath as it was originally instituted? Read and consider Genesis 2:1-3, Exodus 20:8-11, and Deuteronomy 5:12-15.
6. Sabbath observance had gone astray during the history of Israel. One passage that addresses this problem is Isaiah 1:10-15. Read and discuss it.
7. By the time of Jesus, the Sabbath had become a divisive and burdensome day. Luke records events on seven different Sabbath days in his writing. Read and discuss Luke 13:10-17 (the fifth of the Sabbaths about which he writes). Compare what happens on that Sabbath with the passage from Luke 6:1-11.
8. The events of Luke 6:1-11 are also recorded in Matthew 12:1-14 and Mark 2:23-3:6. Read either or both of those accounts, comparing and contrasting them with Luke’s account.

Our lives – walking the way of Jesus in response to Luke 6:1-11 as a portion of the Scriptures

9. Should we be keeping the Sabbath day in our lives? Why or why not? In your discussion, note the words of Paul to the church in Colossae in Colossians 2:16-17.
10. How has this passage from Luke challenged you? What will you do in response to what God is teaching through these events in the life of Jesus?