



# CAPITOL COMMISSION™

## Jesus – Lord of the Sabbath

JUNE 5, 2013

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**In the Gospel According to Luke** (AD 60-61), Luke, a gentile, is writing to Theophilus so that he would know the exact truth and record regarding the things he had been taught about Jesus the Messiah. Luke provided numerous testimonies of Jesus' identity as the Savior and Messiah. Capernaum became Jesus' unofficial ministry headquarters. As was His custom, Jesus was in the synagogue on the Sabbath, reading scripture and teaching. Jesus, during His ministry, traveled to many cities forgiving sin and physically healing people of demons and disease. Jesus began to call His apostles, challenge rituals and shared the Kingdom of God.

*“Now it happened that He was passing through some grainfields on a Sabbath; and His disciples were picking the heads of grain, rubbing them in their hands, and eating the grain. But some of the Pharisees said, “Why do you do what is not lawful on the Sabbath?” And Jesus answering them said, “Have you not even read what David did when he was hungry, he and those who were with him, how he entered the house of God, and took and ate the consecrated bread which is not lawful for any to eat except the priests alone, and gave it to his companions?” And He was saying to them, “The Son of Man is Lord of the Sabbath.” (Luke 6:1-5 NASB)*

**Jesus' disciples were hungry.** Jesus and His disciple were traveling on the Sabbath and were hungry. The OT law permitted the disciples to gather grains as they walk through the fields. *“When you enter your neighbor's standing grain, then you may pluck the heads with your hand, but you shall not wield a sickle in your neighbor's standing grain.” (Dt 23:25)* The Pharisees and scribes following Jesus attempted to find teachings and behaviors that were contrary to their teachings, rituals and laws.

**Pharisees challenged the piety of the disciples.** The Pharisees found fault in the work activity of the disciples gathering grain to eat on the Sabbath. The Pharisees considered this practice not lawful. Pharisees had taken the refraining from work law to extreme practices and rituals.

**Jesus responds and teaches.** Luke records that Jesus rebukes the Pharisees and relates an OT story of David that they should know. David ate and fed his hungry companions from consecrated bread. Jesus was giving an example that they should know and understand. Sabbath laws were never intended to prohibit activities of necessity. In the gospel of Matthew, Jesus rebukes them again with an additional example about priests that work on the Sabbath; are not they breaking the law by performing (working) their priestly (Pharisee) duties? (Mt 12: 5) Jesus, through these examples, was sharing that the Sabbath laws are not moral absolutes but rather intended to be a rest from work. The gospel of Mark records that, *“The Sabbath was made for man, and not man for the Sabbath.” (Mk 12:27)* All three gospels record Jesus telling the Pharisees who He is and His authority.

**Jesus is Lord of the Sabbath.** All three gospels record that Jesus is the Son of Man and has dominion as Lord even over the Sabbath. In all of the examples that Luke, Matthew and Mark provide of Jesus and His activities on the Sabbath, all are filled with love, compassion, kindness and mercy rather than ritual and ceremony.

### For Your Consideration:

- How do you view the Sabbath? A day of no work? A day of rest? A day like any other?
- Is your Sabbath filled with love, compassion, kindness and mercy or ritual and ceremony?
- Do you believe that the Sabbath was made for you?

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### BIBLE STUDIES

LEGISLATORS: SESSION OR HEARING WEDNESDAYS AT 7:30AM, STATEHOUSE RM. 44

STAFF, LOBBYISTS AND CAPITOL SQUARE COMMUNITY: WEDNESDAYS AT NOON, STATEHOUSE RM.44