

J-Ville Pres. June 7, 2026
Lord of the Sabbath
Luke 6:1-5 (1 Sam 21:1-6)
Student Notes

- I. Did you ever think that had you been there and seen and heard Jesus, you might have wondered, disagreed, been confused, mystified, even angered? We put ourselves into these stories as disciples of Jesus, not just observers. But that is because we as Christians have His Spirit in us now. This was not the case among the people Jesus spoke to and worked with in general (Jn.7:37-39). Even his real disciples did not have the Spirit in them prior to Pentecost. The Spirit was at work with them, but not yet in them (Jn.14:15-17). God the Father had drawn them to Jesus, and they were able to hear his voice in the real sense (Jn.10:17-30), but none of them were born again yet.
- II. **Jesus astonished everybody with his actions and his teaching. He brought the redeeming authority God himself—as a human—into the dead world (Eph.2:1-5)!**
- III. **This was shocking, frightening, infuriating to the religious establishment...the people who considered themselves “godly.”**
- A. He is demonstrating divine authority... Beginning with his baptism and the anointing of the Spirit. Lk.4:1-13. (Matt. 3:13-4:1)
1. He defeats the Devil in the desert 4:1-12.
 - a) (which Adam and Israel failed to do) And goes to Galilee.
 2. He equates himself with the messianic promise. 4:16-30. Isa.61:1-2
 - a) This confuses and offends the Nazareth synagogue.
 - b) *So, they tried to kill him...A picture of Israel's response to Christ.*
 3. He confronts and rebukes a demon on a Sabbath. 4:31-37
 - a) Speaks with unprecedented authority. Won't let the spirits talk because they know who he is.
 - b) *BTW: knowing who Jesus is is not saving faith, repentance and personal trust in who he is and what he has done is real faith. (Jas.2:19; Jn. 20:28-29)*
 4. He heals and delivers everybody he touches. 4:38-44.
 - a) But he won't let the demons identify him (4:41)
 - b) While proclaiming the gospel of the kingdom.
 5. He calls a fisherman, Simon (Peter). 5:1-11
 - a) Peter is just a guy...a normal sinner, not part of the spiritual elite.
 - b) Peter repents and trusts the Lord...
 6. He cleanses a leper and becomes more famous. 5:12-15
 - a) Withdrawing regularly to pray.
 7. He heals and forgives a paralytic. 5:17-26
 - a) The *forgiveness* (not physical healing) is the high point. (1:76-77)
 8. He consorts with and calls rank sinners. 5:27-32
 - a) Tax Collectors...Matthew Levi!
 9. He reorients spiritual traditions and disciplines. 5:33-39
 - a) Fasting and praying. But now, it is all about Him, not religious traditions or Judaism...*He is the Bridegroom.*
 - b) *Fasting and praying are good, but only when done freely and in radical faith in Jesus. It's about Him...*
- IV. **Now, more shocking statements...Luke 6:1-5 (Matt.12:1-8; Mk.2:23-28)**
- A. A teachable moment for the pharisees (which they hated)
1. Picking the grain?
 - a) Harvesting and threshing? One of many added traditions that came to be thought of as laws...
 2. Unlawful? *Really?* (tradition added some 39 extra stipulations)
 - a) The Torah said not to harvest (making profit) but said nothing about this snacking. So, the sincere people (separated ones, Pharisees) added to what God said so that they would not “disobey.”

3. Have you not read...? 1 Sam 21:1-6 (Jesus asks this 9 times in the gospels)

a) What? We should read?

b) *Note the authority and historicity of the OT, even in the stories themselves.*

B. A stunning statement about Himself. (which they also hated)

1. The Son of Man? **Dan.7:13**

a) Christ's title for himself. Used 80 times in the gospels, almost always by Jesus about himself.

b) *He is Greater than the Temple! Matt.12:1-8*

2. The Lord of the Sabbath? Shocking!!

a) Sabbath was God's personal day...and one of the three most graphic ID markers of Judaism.

b) *Note that Jesus does not criticize their interpretation and tradition, though he certainly could have. Instead, he points to his own authority by reminding them of King David's eating of consecrated bread.*

c) *The Pharisees interpreted the Law much too strictly (always a danger among sincere religious people). The law of the consecrated bread could be altered under some circumstances...but there is more to this...*

d) *He is more important than the Sabbath Law! A much more profound statement!*

(1) *Belonging to the Lord Jesus, being in Christ, puts our obedience on a different footing than Mosaic traditions.*

V. **If Jesus is Lord of the Sabbath...Four important entailments...**

A. **He is the fulfillment of God's word in the entire Old Testament. Matt.5:17; Col.2:16-17; Heb.1:1-3**

1. It all points to Him.

2. *So, following Jesus (not Moses) is the definition of holiness. Holiness is not defined by religious traditions, but by personal relationship with the One who fulfills all of God's Own Traditions...*

B. **Which means He is Lord of everything. Jn.21:28-29**

1. Not just "my Lord" but THE LORD...God Himself.

2. He has all judgement. Jn.5:22-23. (Jesus sends people to hell? the wrath of the Lamb? Rev.6:16)

3. *He saves us all (Jews and Gentiles) the same way. He is the way, truth, life. Jn.14:6*

a) *Gentiles don't have to act Jewish. (Acts 15; Galatians, Romans)*

b) *Jews don't have to become "Gentile" (Romans 14).*

c) *Christianity is the third option, the new race (Rom.5)*

4. *Which means that if he is your savior, he is your Lord by definition.*

a) *No distinction between these...*

C. **Which means we must rest in Him alone for eternal life. Heb.4:9-10.**

1. *...so then there remains a Sabbath Rest for the people of God, for whoever has entered God's rest has also rested from his works as God did from his. Heb.4:9-10*

2. This points to the Sabbath Life we have in Christ, the rest to which the Sabbath points. Jesus Christ is the Sabbath for us...

3. **We cannot find rest for our souls in...**

a) Our own accomplished obedience. His obedience saves us...

(1) *We do seek to obey the Lord and walk with him. But his love for us is not based on our performance. Grace produces obedience, but obedience does not produce grace.*

b) Our own achieved holiness. His holiness saves us...

(1) *We seek and cooperate with our sanctification, our Christlikeness (which is holiness), but we do not rely on it for God's love.*

c) Our own busy productivity. His work saves us. That's why he healed a paralytic!

(1) *We have much to do (Eph.2:8-10 Phil.2:12-13), but none of our works increase or decrease the Lord's love for us or our value to him.*

(2) *He did not save sinners because of their potential or their productivity. (Rom.5:1-11)*

D. **Which is why Jesus said to come to Him to find rest for our souls.....(Matt.11:28-30)**

This is why we come to the Lord's table...to be reminded of Sabbath Rest in Christ...