

The Son of Man Is Lord of the Sabbath

Sermon Series: **Luke: All Things New**



Series Goal

That Mercy Hill Church would be made new as we follow the One who is making all things new!



Sermon Text

Luke 6:1-11



Big Idea

Jesus uses His authority as Lord to bless His people with rest.

(1) The Claim Made (vv. 1-5)

One commentator notes: “The Pharisees would find in the plucking of the [heads of grain] a breach of the regulation which forbade reaping and in the rubbing [of them] in their hands [a breach of] that which prohibited threshing. Throwing away the husks probably represented winnowing, while eating showed that they had prepared food. Four distinct breaches of the sabbath in one mouthful!” (Morris, TNTC).

The Pharisees immediately object. But Jesus doesn't respond to their objection by defending His and His disciples' actions as lawful. He doesn't directly slam Pharisaic additions to Sabbath law as absurd. Instead, He: (1) reminds them of the Sabbath's true aim (love); and (2) introduces them to the Sabbath's true Author (Himself).

(2) The Claim Manifested (vv. 6-11)

Because He knows the Pharisees will call “bluff” on His claim to be Lord of the Sabbath, this next scene in vv. 6-11 is given to us by Luke to show how Jesus irrefutably vindicates it.

The Warning: We too can walk in the way of the Pharisees: when we care more about laws than love; when we're more passionate about keeping people out than inviting them in; when we get more excited about argument than agreement; when we are more aware of what's wrong with a person than what's right; when we start watching for people to make mistakes so that we can have the “pleasure” of correcting or accusing them (cf. v. 7).

The Wonder: With v. 11 we are pointed forward to the ultimate way Christ will manifest His claim as Lord of the Sabbath. Namely, in His death and resurrection. For the Pharisees will try to destroy Him. They kill Him on that cross, and then His body is laid in the tomb of Joseph of Arimathea on “the Sabbath” (Luke 23:54). And as He lay in that tomb, one can imagine the Pharisees saying to themselves: “Finally, now at last He will cease working on the Sabbath. For He's dead.” But little did they know, Christ saved His greatest work of compassion for this His last Sabbath on the earth. With His body broken like bread He will feed the world! With His nail-pierced hands He will heal not just body but soul, and not just in part but in whole, and not just of one person but of all whom the Father has given Him!

Reflection Questions



- In your opinion, should Christians still observe the Sabbath today in some way? Use Scripture to defend your answer. How does this work out practically in your life?
- Reread “The Warning” above. In what ways are you prone to walk in the way of the Pharisees? How does Jesus break you free from this?
- Has Christianity ever felt more like a burdensome list of rules than good news of great joy? Why? How does Christ and the gospel help us move away from that?