

Matthew 12:1-14

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Introduction: Jesus' Sabbath routine, Luke 4:16. How does it translate to our Sabbath routines?

1. "Deeds of necessity." Taking care of basic needs is necessary, in order to be with Jesus, vv1-8
 - a. It is a hard view of God to think that all He cares for is our sacrifice. Even the Pharisees' view of this law was corrupted by their hardness (cf. Deu 23:25)
 - b. For us to worship Jesus. Jesus is greater than David. Being with Him ought to be a place of privilege, not deprivation. God doesn't command us to be miserable, but He does command us to be merciful.
 - c. For others to worship Jesus. Jesus is greater than the Temple. Whatever is necessary to facilitate His worship *is Sabbath keeping, not breaking.*
2. "Deeds of mercy." Noticing and attending to the suffering of others is necessary, in order to be with Jesus, vv9-14
 - a. He desires mercy! Like Jonah... they just *knew* that He would be merciful!
 - b. We don't "break" the Sabbath by deeds of mercy; we *keep it* by deeds of mercy!
 - i. We enable others to worship Him by alleviating suffering
 - ii. We enable ourselves to worship Him by maintaining our hearts in sympathy with His.
 - c. Hardness toward others corresponds with hardness toward Him, v14. You cannot delight in Him and despise His image.
3. So, what do we do?
 - a. We prepare ourselves for worship
 - i. We prepare our bodies
 - ii. We prepare our souls
 - iii. This includes the day before, but especially the day of
 - b. We go to worship. Don't just be there. Be THERE.
 - c. We attend to Jesus
 - i. In delight and submission
 - ii. By caring about what He cares about:
 1. God's glory
 2. Our souls
 3. Others: a couple suggestions... those who cannot come; those who will not come; those who come but are weighed down

Conclusion: Jesus is the Lord of the Sabbath! Psalm 73:16-28 and Isaiah 58:13-14 and Gen 2:2-3 and Heb 4:1-10 are all about Him!