

## Matthew 12:1-8

# THE SON OF MAN IS LORD OF THE SABBATH

- I. The controversy with Pharisees.
  - A. The Pharisees criticized Jesus' disciples plucked, rubbed and ate grain on the Sabbath day.
    - 1. While God forbade work on the Sabbath (Ex. 20:10; 34:21), including rubbing grain (Luke 6:1).
    - 2. The accusation was really at Jesus for not only permitting but even approving it.
  - B. Jesus condemns the Pharisees for putting a legalistic interpretation on the spiritual institution of the Sabbath.
- II. The Lordship of Jesus.
  - A. Jesus declares that the Sabbath was created and instituted to be a blessing for man.
    - 1. God's rest was not inactivity (John 5:17), but He stopped the work of creating and He reflected on and enjoyed His work.
    - 2. Thus God sanctified and blessed the day, making the Sabbath blessed for man too.
    - 3. Our weekly Sabbaths are not the final Sabbath God would have with His people.
  - B. Jesus is Lord of the Sabbath.
    - 1. He is Lord of all as the Son of man, including His being Lord of the Sabbath.
    - 2. At the same time Jesus defends the Sabbath as defined in Scripture: "Have ye not read..." (3,5).
- III. Jesus, as Lord of the Sabbath, had the right, under the necessity to eat, to set aside the divine ceremonial law.
  - A. Christ, the Lord of the Sabbath, gave the Sabbath to man so man might use it in spiritual service of God.
  - B. It is spiritual activity (faith) in the things of God's kingdom – not for recreation and pleasure-seeking (rest from daily toil).
  - C. Proper observance of the Sabbath (rest in Christ and living in hope of the eternal Sabbath) bears wonderful fruit.