

“A Year with Jesus” Week 16, April 18th, Luke 6:1-11

//Are you a rule follower? If so, participating in the Jewish religion in the time of Jesus would have been a perfect fit. There were rules regulating every aspect of life, and the goal was to follow the rules. These two stories tied together by Mark are about Sabbath, but in truth, they are about the rule of law vs. the rule of love. As you spend time in Mark, hold this question close; should we break the rules for love?

Note on Sabbath (Exodus 20:8-11, Deut 5:12-15)

Sabbath was one day in the week (Saturday) prescribed by God to his people for rest from any kind of work. The day was a gift from God to his people allowing them to focus on him and on each other. For many at this point in the current religious structure, the day had devolved into rule following in order to keep from breaking the laws of Sabbath.

//Read Luke 6:1-5

1-2: What's your initial reaction to the Pharisee's claim?

3-5: The story is from 1 Samuel 21:1-6. David lies to the priest and eats bread not meant for him due to his great need. Jesus uses this familiar story to the Pharisees in order to prioritize need over law.

//Read Luke 6:6-11

Place yourself in the room as a bystander and imagine the scene.

After spending time in this story, reflect on these two thoughts.

- Reflect on the inner condition of the Pharisee's hearts.
- Reflect on what Jesus might have felt as Mark says “Jesus knew what they were thinking” (v. 8)

//Law vs. Love

These stories together show a movement that can take place in our hearts. Focussing on obedience to religious or social rules, as the Pharisees did, can initially make us concerned with simple things like picking grain, but grow till it hinders our ability to have compassion for others, like a crippled man in need. Jesus prioritized love over simple rule following, as did David, as did the disciples, because of a greater need. For Jesus, love is the primary law.

- How does this passage and it's truths resonate with you? Does it challenge or convict? Is there any Pharisee in you?
- Can you think of a scenario in your experience where ignoring or even disobeying a rule out of love would be the better decision?

- Setting aside the specifics of scenarios, think of the general rule of love and a willingness to care first for others. What would it look like if you lived in this way? What might need to change? What would it look like if the church, the community of Christ followers, lived in this way? What might need to change?

//Spend this week examining your attitudes and actions in regards to this story and the call to care for others first. Identify any scenarios where you were confronted with this challenge and the impact that it made.