

Luke 6 pt 1 (NASB)

Luke 6:1-11 (also in Matthew 12:1-8 & Mark 2:23-28)

One Sabbath Jesus was going through the grainfields, and his disciples began to pick some heads of grain, rub them in their hands and eat the kernels. ² Some of the Pharisees asked, "Why are you doing what is unlawful on the Sabbath?"

³ Jesus answered them, "Have you never read what David did when he and his companions were hungry? ⁴ He entered the house of God, and taking the consecrated bread, he ate what is lawful only for priests to eat. And he also gave some to his companions." ⁵ Then Jesus said to them, "The Son of Man is Lord of the Sabbath."

⁶ On another Sabbath he went into the synagogue and was teaching, and a man was there whose right hand was shriveled. ⁷ The Pharisees and the teachers of the law were looking for a reason to accuse Jesus, so they watched him closely to see if he would heal on the Sabbath. ⁸ But Jesus knew what they were thinking and said to the man with the shriveled hand, "Get up and stand in front of everyone." So he got up and stood there.

⁹ Then Jesus said to them, "I ask you, which is lawful on the Sabbath: to do good or to do evil, to save life or to destroy it?"

¹⁰ He looked around at them all, and then said to the man, "Stretch out your hand." He did so, and his hand was completely restored.

¹¹ But the Pharisees and the teachers of the law were furious and began to discuss with one another what they might do to Jesus.

1. After feasting with Levi, and teaching on the old system & new system
 - a. Jesus' disciples are hungry
 - b. Walking through the grain fields on the Sabbath, they take kernels and eat them

- a) This was allowed by the law
 - c. **Deut 23:25** If you go into your neighbor's standing grain, you may pluck the ears with your hand, but you shall not put a sickle to your neighbor's standing grain
2. The Pharisees seem to be in the shadows looking for something to blame Jesus with

- I. Complaint**
- II. Kernel**
- III. Compassion**

I. Complaint

1. The Pharisees accuse Jesus of violating the Sabbath:
- a. Sabbath was one day in the week where no one was allowed to work
 - b. Violating the Sabbath was punishable by death
2. Nothing was held in higher esteem than the Sabbath. **Why?**
- a. It's what set the Jews apart from all other people
 - b. This was their God given commandment
3. It was designed as a day of rest, recuperation, restoration, worship & joy
- a. It was designed for man
 - b. To rest from labor and worship The Lord

4. **N.T.** We understand that the Sabbath is not just a day, but a lifestyle

- a. A picture of **rest** to demonstrate that there is a rest for us in God
- b. A time to stop working for and striving to earn points with God
- c. Under the old covenant, you had to work first before arriving at rest
- d. In the New covenant, you rest first in Christ and works follow

5. **Instead of Rest, it was a day of incredible burdens**

- a. In the Talmud, there were several things you could and could not do.
- b. All other commands were straight forward, but this one need clarity
- c. In one section of the Talmud, there are 24 chapters listing all the Sabbath laws

6. **MacArthur:**

- a. You couldn't walk more than 3000 feet from your home,
- b. Couldn't eat certain foods
- c. You couldn't light a fire to warm your food...
- d. You could never carry a burden that weighed more than a dried fig...

- e. If you threw an object in the air and caught it with the other hand, it was a sin. If you caught it in the same hand, it wasn't.
 - f. A tailor couldn't carry his needle.
 - g. The scribe couldn't carry his pen.
 - h. A student couldn't carry his books
 - i. No clothing could be examined lest you find lice and inadvertently kill it.
 - j. Wool couldn't be dyed.
 - k. Nothing could be sold.
 - l. Nothing could be bought.
 - m. Nothing could be washed
 - n. Women couldn't look in a glass or they might find a white hair and be tempted to pull it out.
 - o. Women couldn't wear jewelry because jewelry weighs more than a dried fig
7. It remains to this day in Jewish culture. (**MacArthur**)
- a. In New York City, for example, they eat only leftover food and drink day-old coffee because they can't prepare anything, cook anything.
 - b. Some apartment buildings in New York ... and other cities have ...a Sabbath elevator that has no buttons on it.
 - c. It goes up, hits every floor and goes down and hits every floor so that you don't have to push a button. That's work.
 - d. And they have Sabbath timers in the houses that turn the lights on and turn the lights off on the Sabbath...
- 8. These were man-made regulations to attempt to please God**

- a. Reality was it became an unbearable burden
9. What God designed to help man and give rest became a burden beyond measure

10. Sabbath was designed by God to renew mankind

- a. It's what refreshes us to continue effectively
- b. Ignoring it is like **not** changing the oil in your car
- c. We all need to find our day of rest and renewal

11. The Pharisees charged the disciples with breaking the Sabbath by picking, rubbing, and separating the grain

12. It didn't matter if they were hungry

- a. **They broke the Sabbath; that was the last straw**
- b. Their law centered around that one day

II. Kernel

1. Jesus replies with "Have you never read"..
 - a. The Pharisees knew the Word better than most
 - b. Implying that although they knew the letter, they missed the point
2. What the disciples did with the kernels illustrates what Jesus refers to
 - a. There's much to learn by watching Jesus with His disciples

3. **They followed Jesus closely**

- a. **Pluck the grain**
- b. **Rub it several times**
- c. **Eat the grain**

4. They followed Jesus closely – **They pursued Him**

- d. Pluck the grain – **Pick up the Word of God**
- e. Rub it several times – **Run through the same passages over and over**
- f. Eat the grain – **Take in the truth that is revealed**

5. **We can follow that same pattern when we get hungry**

- a. Follow close behind the Lord
- b. Pick up the Word of God
- c. Read it through it over and over
- d. Take the truths revealed to heart and feed on them

6. Revelation of God's presence comes by reading, meditating and searching

a. Like the grain, the treasure is beneath the surface

7. Nothing else satisfies like Revelation from the Holy Spirit about Jesus

8. Then Jesus gives an example of revelation in the Word of God

9. In it, He makes a comparison between Himself and David

10. **Have you never read the story of David and his men**

- a. David was chased by Saul and was on the run
- b. They ate the consecrated bread and were not condemned

- c. No one dared accuse David of wrongdoing - their great king

11. **David and his men got hungry**

12. **The disciples got hungry**

13. **How could God allow His people to go hungry?**

14. You will face hunger on occasion even though you are on the right path

15. These times of hunger are allowed to cause you to know **why** you are on this journey

- a. Are you simply in it for the blessings?
- b. Will you abandon ship once difficulties come your way?
- c. Or will you stay the course?

16. **Deut 8:2** You shall remember all the way which the Lord your God has led you in the wilderness these forty years, that He might humble you, testing you, to know what was in your heart, whether you would keep His commandments or not. 3 He humbled you and let you be hungry, and fed you with manna which you did not know, nor did your fathers know, that He might make you understand that man does not live by bread alone, but man lives by everything that proceeds out of the mouth of the Lord

17. **Many walk away from fellowship with God when things get tough...**

18. David went to the Tabernacle when he was in need

19. As David's men stuck with him, the disciples stuck with Jesus

20. As David wasn't condemned, Jesus is not to be blamed
21. **But I say unto you, that one greater than the temple is here**
22. **The Sabbath was made for man, not man for the Sabbath**
23. **The Son of man is also Lord of the Sabbath**
 - a. Jesus was displaying His Deity**
 - i. He used their complaint and used the Kernel to explain who He is
 - ii. He designed the Sabbath
 - iii. It's His law
 - iv. He is God

III. Compassion

1. In the Synagogue, Jesus calls out to a man to heal him on the Sabbath
 - a. I picture him standing in the back trying to hide
 - b. It would have been easier to avoid the issue
 - c. Possibly meet him during the week
2. Jesus said to the man to stand in front of everyone
 - a. **Step Forward**
3. **Compassion in action**
4. **He wants to restore the man completely**
 - a. By removing the stigma
 - i. It was believed that God's judgment was on the sick

- b. By restoring the man's dignity in the community
 - c. By restoring his ability to work again
- 5. The healing hasn't happened yet; the man still has a withered hand
- 6. Many times, in a service, I hear that God wants to do something for me
 - a. **Step forward**
 - b. Yet there is a disconnect
- 7. Many of us may need a healing from whatever we're trying to hide
- 8. Stepping forward = Acknowledging the problem
- 9. In order for there to be a healing, there needs to be an acknowledgement of the problem
 - a. Jesus only asks the man to do what he is able
 - b. God will never ask you to do what is beyond your ability
- 10. He wants to demonstrate visibly what He wants to do in whole
 - a. Jesus wants to bring restoration to the entire person
- 11. Everywhere Jesus went, people were being restored
 - a. To capture their attention, He is ready to perform another miracle
- 12. They watched him closely to see if he would heal him on the Sabbath

13. Religion doesn't care about the person, only tradition

14. His compassion goes hand in hand with truth

- a. "Is it lawful on the Sabbath to do good or to do evil, to save life or to kill?"
- b. That should have been a clue for them because their thoughts and intent were being exposed
- c. Their blindness reached a level of conspiracy and murder while being religious
- d. They wanted to kill Jesus for healing on the Sabbath
- e. They conspired to murder Him

15. The Lord knew their thoughts and was willing to die to set people free

16. How important is our freedom to God?

17. God's original design is for man to live in dominion, not under bondage

- a. To live in freedom and fellowship
- b. The original design has been warped

18. His greatest creation that bears His image is now enslaved to religious ceremony

- a. God wants life
- b. God desires peace
- c. God longs for fellowship with man
 - i. They preferred religion

19. Although the truth is in front of them, they refuse to see it

20. Jesus instructs the man to take a step:

a. **Stretch out your hand**

21. The man had every reason to be ashamed of his weakness and try to hide it

22. Take a step of faith and do what God said to do

23. Whatever God said for me to do, I can do

24. **God's commands are God's enablement's**

a. I can live a grateful life

b. I can choose to rejoice

c. I can live free from the influence of the flesh

d. I can love those who are offending me

25. If I choose to look at my current condition and only look at my history, I will always doubt and not move forward

26. God told Joshua to go inherit the promised land

27. If Joshua said, we've been in the desert for 40 years and no promise land

a. Why in the world would there be one now?

b. 40 years of contradiction to God's promises

c. Why now?

d. You want me to march around the city 6 times and on the seventh day march 7 times

- e. You mean put my neck on the line?
28. Show my enemy "we're here"?
29. You mean you want us to march on the 7th day?
- a. God was showing them that Sabbath rest was in obedience to God
 - b. Not in the letter of the law
 - c. The letter kills, but the Spirit gives life
30. This story illustrates that if Joshua followed the letter of the law, none would enter the promised land
- a. It was obedience to what God is saying now to us specifically
31. Any other army trying to attack Jericho with the same tactic would be slaughtered
32. God's command became the power to perform it
33. If you do what I command you Joshua, the walls will come down
- a. **What is God speaking to you about today?**
34. What walls have been up for years that need to come down?
35. What withered in shame that you need to stretch out today?
36. God told the blind man to go wash in the pool and be healed
- a. I always wash my face...

- b. Don't try to use reason and logic
- c. God's ways are not our ways
- d. Take a risk following God's Word for you

37. It's a step of faith

38. **God's compassion is demonstrated by your faith**

- a. People try and hide and cover their flaws
- b. If there is going to be healing, everything hidden must come to light

39. It was the same message for the Pharisees as well as the man

40. For healing and freedom to happen, you need to have 3 things:

- a. Desire for the healing
- b. Faith in Christ's ability
- c. Obedience to His Word

41. Faith in the One who was giving the command

42. A willing heart of obedience that took the risk

43. Without faith & obedience, there is no healing

44. **The same is true for us**

- a. I need to desire God's healing in my life
- b. I need to believe what God is saying to me
- c. I need to obey whatever command He gives me

45. The man stretched out his hand and he was completely restored

46. We can be restored today as well

