

## *Verses included*

### **Luke 6:1-19**

1 And it came to pass on the second sabbath after the first, that he went through the corn fields; and his disciples plucked the ears of corn, and did eat, rubbing them in their hands. 2 And certain of the Pharisees said unto them, Why do ye that which is not lawful to do on the sabbath days? 3 And Jesus answering them said, Have ye not read so much as this, what David did, when himself was an hungred, and they which were with him; 4 How he went into the house of God, and did take and eat the shewbread, and gave also to them that were with him; which it is not lawful to eat but for the priests alone? 5 And he said unto them, That the Son of man is Lord also of the sabbath. 6 And it came to pass also on another sabbath, that he entered into the synagogue and taught: and there was a man whose right hand was withered. 7 And the scribes and Pharisees watched him, whether he would heal on the sabbath day; that they might find an accusation against him. 8 But he knew their thoughts, and said to the man which had the withered hand, Rise up, and stand forth in the midst. And he arose and stood forth. 9 Then said Jesus unto them, I will ask you one thing; Is it lawful on the sabbath days to do good, or to do evil? to save life, or to destroy it? 10 And looking round about upon them all, he said unto the man, Stretch forth thy hand. And he did so: and his hand was restored whole as the other. 11 And they were filled with madness; and communed one with another what they might do to Jesus.

12 And it came to pass in those days, that he went out into a mountain to pray, and continued all night in prayer to God. 13 And when it was day, he called unto him his disciples: and of them he chose twelve, whom also he named apostles; 14 Simon, (whom he also named Peter,) and Andrew his brother, James and John, Philip and Bartholomew, 15 Matthew and Thomas, James the son of Alphaeus, and Simon called Zelotes, 16 And Judas the brother of James, and Judas Iscariot, which also was the traitor. 17 And he came down with them, and stood in the plain, and the company of his disciples, and a great multitude of people out of all Judaea and Jerusalem, and from the sea coast of Tyre and Sidon, which came to hear him, and to be healed of their diseases; 18 And they that were vexed with unclean spirits: and they were healed. 19 And the whole multitude sought to touch him: for there went virtue out of him, and healed them all.

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We left off in chapter 5 with Jesus healing and teaching, showing himself to be God, but the religious leaders aren't only wary of Him they attack His character and charge him with breaking the law. Little do they realize that the very one they were talking to came to fulfill the law. The law was something that we all fall short of and cannot keep. This was the reason Jesus had to come and die for our sin and justification. Jesus is our righteousness.

In the first part of chapter 6 we see Jesus and His disciples go through a corn field with the disciples picking the corn. This was not their corn and most would label it as stealing but notice that Jesus doesn't rebuke them but defends them.

How do we reconcile this with the law? Does this fall in line with the Old Testament law of gleaning (Lev 19:9-10, Rut 2)? Whose corn is it? Who created it? Who caused it to grow?

Note that the religious leaders don't raise any questions about them taking the corn but that they took it on the sabbath. Jesus puts it in perspective for them giving the example of David taking the showbread from the temple and explaining "That the Son of man is Lord also of the sabbath."

In Mark 2:27-28 we get a more detailed account of what was said "And he said unto them, The sabbath was made for man, and not man for the sabbath: Therefore the Son of man is Lord also of the sabbath. If you recall in chapter 5 this was the same thing they accused Jesus of when he healed the man with palsy. The religious leaders are showing themselves to be very legalistic not caring so much about the person as they did the law. This breaks the second greatest commandment to love thy neighbour as thyself. In verses 6-11 the scribes and Pharisees are filled with madness after seeing Jesus heal the man with the withered hand. Their Messiah was repeatedly charged with breaking the Sabbath throughout the rest of His earthly ministry.

In America, and elsewhere across the globe, we used to have what were called Blue Laws which prohibited commercial activity on Sundays. It was good to see that they were willing to respect God in this way but not sure the main purpose of the command was followed. What are your views about the Sabbath? Why did God give the command and what was the intent?

In verse 12, Jesus goes up unto a mountain to pray and amazingly prays all night. Just as this speaks of Jesus' compassion and concern, our prayer life says a lot about us.

Luke does not tell us what the topic of His prayer was but afterwards he called his disciples together and chose twelve. Maybe Jesus was praying about His ministry in general. Perhaps it was about choosing the twelve, or that they would understand the truth and be encouraged. Maybe He prayed for the people that would come to hear Him and be healed.

Many significant things in the Bible happened on a mountain top but thankfully we can pray anywhere and have confidence that our God hears us. And, thankfully we have a Saviour who heals our spiritual brokenness and gives everlasting life...

**A Side Note**

Interestingly, one of the facts of the Bible is that corn was present in Israel. Scientists and historians today say it was first cultivated in southern Mexico which it may well have. The question it raises for the curiously minded is 'How did it get from Central America all the way over to the Middle East when ships weren't known to travel that far out in that time in history.



Again, I hope the study was a blessing to you and hope that you share it with others. May God bless and keep you.

Jeff