

The Acts of Jesus – Keeping the Sabbath

Matthew 12:1-15 ¹At that time Jesus went on the sabbath day through the corn; and his disciples were an hungered, and began to pluck the ears of corn, and to eat. ²But when the Pharisees [The name *Pharisee* in its Hebrew form means *separatists*, or *the separated ones*.] saw *it*, they said unto him, Behold, thy disciples do that which is not lawful to do upon the sabbath day. ³But he said unto them, **Have ye not read what David did, when he was an hungered, and they that were with him; ⁴How he entered into the house of God, and did eat the showbread, which was not lawful for him to eat, neither for them which were with him, but only for the priests? [The necessity of eating trumped the law. Thou shalt not kill but there is a time for justified war.] ⁵Or have ye not read in the law, how that on the sabbath days the priests in the temple profane the sabbath, and are blameless? ⁶But I say unto you, That in this place is *one* greater than the temple. [Hebrews 3:3 For this man was counted worthy of more glory than Moses, inasmuch as he who hath builded the house hath more honour than the house.] ⁷But if ye had known what *this* meaneth, I will have mercy, and not sacrifice, ye would not have condemned the guiltless. ⁸For the Son of man is Lord even of the sabbath day. [Hosea 6:6 For I desired mercy, and not sacrifice; and the knowledge of God more than burnt offerings.]**

⁹And when he was departed thence, he went into their synagogue: ¹⁰And, behold, there was a man which had *his* hand withered. And they asked him, saying, Is it lawful to heal on the sabbath days? that they might accuse him. ¹¹And he said unto them, **What man shall there be among you, that shall have one sheep, and if it fall into a pit on the sabbath day, will he not lay hold on it, and lift *it* out? ¹²How much then is a man better than a sheep? Wherefore it is lawful to do well on the sabbath days. ¹³Then saith he to the man, **Stretch forth thine hand.** And he stretched *it* forth; and it was restored whole, like as the other.**

¹⁴Then the Pharisees went out, and held a council against him, how they might destroy him.

Much like today, we tend to worship the creation over the Creator.

Mark 3:1-6 ¹And he entered again into the synagogue; and there was a man there which had a withered hand. ²And they watched him, whether he would heal him on the sabbath day; that they might accuse him. ³And he saith unto the man which had the withered hand, **Stand forth.** ⁴And he saith unto them, **Is it lawful to do good on the sabbath days, or to do evil? to save life, or to kill?** But they held their peace. ⁵And when he had looked round about on them with anger, being grieved for the hardness of their hearts, he saith unto the man, **Stretch forth thine hand.** And he stretched *it* out: and his hand was restored whole as the other. ⁶And the Pharisees went forth, and straightway took counsel **with the Herodians** [a court or political party, supporters of the dynasty of Herod] against him, how they might destroy him.

Luke 6:1-11 ¹And 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. ²And certain of the Pharisees said unto them, Why do ye that which is not lawful to do on the sabbath days? ³And Jesus answering them said, **Have ye not read so much as this, what David did, when himself was an hungered, and they which were with him; ⁴How he went into the house of God, and did take and eat the showbread, and gave also to them that were with him; which it is not lawful to eat but for the priests alone?** ⁵And he said unto them, **That the Son of man is Lord also of the sabbath.**

⁶And 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. ⁷And the scribes and Pharisees watched him, whether he would heal on the sabbath day; that they might find an accusation against him. ⁸But 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. ⁹Then 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?** ¹⁰And 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. ¹¹And they were **filled with madness**; and communed one with another what they might do to Jesus.

Another example of Jesus healing on the Sabbath

Luke 14:1-6 ¹And it came to pass, as he went into the house of one of the chief Pharisees to eat bread on the sabbath day, that they watched him. ²And, behold, there was a certain man before him which **had the dropsy** [edema - bloated with water. This was possibly a set up by the Pharisee.]. ³And Jesus answering spake unto the lawyers and Pharisees, saying, **Is it lawful to heal on the sabbath day?** ⁴And they held their peace. And he took *him*, and healed him, and let him go; ⁵And answered them, saying, **Which of you shall have an ass or an ox fallen into a pit, and will not straightway pull him out on the sabbath day?** ⁶And they could not answer him again to these things.

In Exodus 20 the Lord commands the Israelites to Honor the Sabbath & keep it holy (*not to do any heavy work for pay*). In Hebrews 3 & 4, it is made clear that the Sabbath represents a spiritual daily rest, which is available to each one of us. The reason God rested on the 7th day was NOT because He was tired, but He WAS FINISHED! He had done all that necessary for us.

We no longer live under the law which was a foreshadow of things to come. The types and shadows were fulfilled in Christ.

Romans 14:5 ⁵One man esteemeth one day above another: another esteemeth every day *alike*. Let every man be fully persuaded in his own mind.

Colossians 2:16-17 Let no man therefore judge you in meat, or in drink, or in respect of an holyday, or of the new moon, or of the sabbath days: 17 Which are a shadow of things to come; but the body is of Christ.

We are to love the Lord our God and love our neighbors. Those are the 2 commandments in the NT. All of our days should be given to the Lord in worship and the Lord doesn't care if it's Tuesday or Friday, or whatever day. It is not a ritual to serve or worship the Lord.