

Lord of the Sabbath
Matthew 12:1-21

Introduction: Controversies over the Sabbath

Context – rising opposition against Jesus which will lead to His crucifixion

I. The Sabbath's Lord is greater than the Sabbath (12:1-8)

(The grain-picking incident)

The religious leader's concern for profaning the Sabbath was justified

The importance of the Sabbath (Ezekiel 20:12, Exodus 16:23, 20:8-11)

Additional legislation to protect the Sabbath from being profaned

Jesus' three-fold argument defending His disciples' actions from Scripture

1. From the writings (*Hagadah*) – David and the "Bread of presence" (1 Samuel 21:1-6)

2. From the Law (*Halakah*) – the Levites profane the Sabbath

3. From the Prophets – Hosea 6:6 (the meaning of *mercy* – "*chesed*")

Jesus' conclusion: *The Son of Man is Lord of the Sabbath*

II. The Sabbath's Lord defines the purpose of the Sabbath (12:9-14)

(The healing incident)

Mark 2:27 "*The Sabbath was made for man, and not man for the Sabbath.*"

Jesus' healing on the Sabbath fulfills the very purpose of the Sabbath.

The Sabbath in Church history

Unhealthy arguments over the Sabbath (Seventh Day Adventists)

The early church and Reformers understanding of the Sabbath

Galatians 4:8-11, Colossians 2:16-17

III. The Sabbath's Lord is a Servant and a Savior (12:15-21)

(The prophetic postscript from Isaiah 42:1-4)

Matthew once again reminds us that Jesus is the Messiah who the Old Testament prophesied.

Matthew reminds us of the Gospel mission of Jesus Christ (the Servant).