

Gospel of Luke

House Group Notes for Luke 6:1-11 based upon sermon series



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“THE HOLY SPIRIT WILL COME UPON YOU AND THE POWER OF THE MOST HIGH WILL OVERSHADOW YOU” LUKE 1: 35

Was the issue really “the Sabbath” for Jesus, the Pharisees or Luke?

For Luke (and Jesus!) the issue is not so much about the Sabbath. It could be argued either way whether Jesus broke the Sabbath depending on which set of rules you appeal to! The real issue going on here is kingship. Jesus actions echo those of a previous king in waiting (see Echoes of a former king over the page) – King David. Jesus again uses the term ‘Son of Man’ to refer to himself; from Daniel 7- a designation for the one who Israel’s

God would declare to be Israel’s rightful king.

Whose authority is greater – the Pharisees or Jesus?

According to Exodus 31, observing the Sabbath is a sign of the special relationship between God and his people Israel throughout the generations. God says that his people Israel are to be Holy as He is Holy; Israel is to observe the day of rest as God did when he made the heaven and earth. There is a beauty in this; it’s a gift from God to his people that helps them reflect the image of their God. But the Pharisees

claimed the authority to ‘interpret’ the commandment concerning the Sabbath and had over many years added many constraints, restrictions and qualifications to it. Jesus now declares that he is the new authority to interpret God’s law. God’s law was seen as the way to salvation for Israel; Jesus is now saying that he is the way to salvation – not the tainted interpretation of the law promoted by the Pharisees. Jesus is the authority now, not the Pharisees. No wonder Luke says they were furious!

How do the healings reinforce Jesus authority and announce the nature of the coming Kingdom?

If the Sabbath is about reflecting the image of God, which is more in keeping with the Sabbath – to do good or evil, to save or destroy?

DISCUSS FURTHER

The Pharisees seem to get passionate about the wrong things. They seemed to ‘major on the minors.’ Jesus seems to put the big things on God’s heart back at the centre. Do we ever end up focussing on the minors at the expense of the majors? What are God’s majors (e.g. working with the poor, sharing the Gospel)?

LUKE 6:1-11

**Filled with the Holy Spirit
Jesus is teaching and healing
the sick...****Jesus Is Lord of the
Sabbath**

¹ One Sabbath Jesus was going through the grain fields, 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 shrivelled. 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 shrivelled 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.

Son of Man in Daniel 7

¹³ "In my vision at night I looked, and there before me was one like a son of man, coming with the clouds of heaven. He approached the Ancient of Days and was led into his presence. ¹⁴ He was given authority, glory and sovereign power; all nations and peoples of every language worshiped him. His dominion is an everlasting dominion that will not pass away, and his kingdom is one that will never be destroyed.

Echoes of a former
King 1 Samuel 21

'Normally only priests in the sanctuary ate the 'bread of the Presence' (the bread which was set aside to symbolize God's presence in fellowship with his people); but David claimed the right to do so. Why? Presumably because he was the rightful King of Israel. Samuel had anointed him when he was only a lad, and had proclaimed him king; but Saul was still on the throne. At the time of the story, David was

leading a rag-tag group of followers, keeping away from Saul, waiting for the time when his kingship would come true. [Jesus] too, as Luke has been at pains to tell us, has been appointed as Israel's king. He, too, is waiting for the time when this kingship will come true. He, too, is on the move with his odd little group of followers...'

Wright, T., *Luke for Everyone*, p67

The Fourth Commandment in
Exodus 20:8-11

⁸ "Remember the Sabbath day by keeping it holy. ⁹ Six days you shall labour and do all your work, ¹⁰ but the seventh day is a Sabbath to the LORD your God. On it you shall not do any work, neither you, nor your son or daughter, nor your male or female servant, nor your animals, nor any foreigner residing in your towns. ¹¹ For in six days the LORD made the heavens and the earth, the sea, and all that is in them, but he rested on the seventh day. Therefore the LORD blessed the Sabbath day and made it holy.

