

# ***The Heart of the Matter***

***PASTOR MIKE YODER • LUKE 6:1–11***



*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.*

*Some of the Pharisees asked, “Why are you doing what is unlawful on the Sabbath?”*

*Jesus answered them, “Have you never read what David did when he and his companions were hungry?”*

*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.”*

*Then Jesus said to them, “The Son of Man is Lord of the Sabbath.”*

*On another Sabbath He went into the synagogue and was teaching, and a man was there whose right hand was shriveled.*

**Luke 6:6**

*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.*

*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.*

*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?”*

**Luke 6:9**

*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.*

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

**Luke 6:11**



The Sabbath was a divine gift to  
promote human flourishing.

*By the seventh day God had finished the work He had been doing; so on the seventh day He rested from all His work.*

*Then God blessed the seventh day and made it holy, because on it He rested from all the work of creating that He had done.*

**Genesis 2:3**

*“Remember the Sabbath day by keeping it holy.*

**Exodus 20:8**

*Six days you shall labor and do all your work,*

*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.*

**Exodus 20:10**

*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.*

**Exodus 20:11**

The Sabbath terminated a week of work and was to be a complete rest unto the Lord, a distinguishing mark of God's choosing the Jewish people. The Sabbath was a joyous holy day, a day of spiritual refreshment and reverent worship.

The Sabbath became a mess  
of unachievable mandates.



**The Sabbath is not to be master over God's people, but is a service to them. It was created for them and was not created as a burden against them.**

The truth is — and this is the heart of legalism — the Pharisees would use Scripture in whatever manner they could to justify those they wanted to justify and condemn those they wanted to condemn. But Jesus doesn't let them.

**Stephen Davey**

Jesus demonstrated the  
importance of doing good  
for those in need.



*David went to Nob, to Ahimelek the priest. Ahimelek trembled when he met him, and asked, “Why are you alone? Why is no one with you?”*

*David answered Ahimelek the priest, “The king sent me on a mission and said to me, ‘No one is to know anything about the mission I am sending you on.’ As for my men, I have told them to meet me at a certain place.*

*Now then, what do you have on hand? Give me five loaves of bread, or whatever you can find.”*

**1 Samuel 21:3**

*So the priest gave him the consecrated bread, since there was no bread there except the bread of the Presence that had been removed from before the LORD and replaced by hot bread on the day it was taken away.*

David and his followers did this unlawful act because of David's authority: how much more therefore, can David's Lord and His followers do something that meets a human need even though it represented a technical violation of the Mosaic law.

Jesus declared that He is the  
Lord of the Sabbath and of life.



*I tell you that something greater than the temple is here.*

**Matthew 12:6**

**“Since I created the Sabbath, I can do on the Sabbath and with the Sabbath whatever I want. The Sabbath is not yours to control; it is Mine, because I am Lord Jehovah.”**

**Stephen Davey**

Jesus exposed the human  
tendency to posture rather  
than pursue God.



*Then Jesus asked them, “Which is lawful on the Sabbath: to do good or to do evil, to save life or to kill?” But they remained silent.*

*He looked around at them in anger and, deeply distressed at their stubborn hearts, said to the man, “Stretch out your hand.” He stretched it out, and his hand was completely restored.*

*Then the Pharisees went out and began to plot with the Herodians how they might kill Jesus.*

**Mark 3:6**

It's possible to appear religiously right and hide a heart of rebellion, resentment, and rage.

**Stephen Davey**

Jesus possesses authority to give  
rest to those who embrace God.



All who believe in this Jesus stop trying to work their way to God; and, turning from any hopes of self-righteousness, they enter into the true rest, an unending Sabbath, based on faith.

**Thabiti Anyabwile**

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- 3. To remind us that God is the Savior of our lives.**

**God's heart is life for  
people through His Son.**

