

## Matthew 12:1-8 **Eating in Grain-field – Lord of the Sabbath**

<sup>1</sup> At that time Jesus went through the grainfields on the Sabbath. And His disciples were hungry, and began to pluck heads of grain and to eat.

<sup>2</sup> And when the Pharisees saw it, they said to Him, "Look, Your disciples are doing what is not lawful to do on the Sabbath!"

<sup>3</sup> But He said to them, "Have you not read what David did when he was hungry, he and those who were with him: <sup>4</sup> how he entered the house of God and ate the showbread which was not lawful for him to eat, nor for those who were with him, but only for the priests? <sup>5</sup> Or have you not read in the law that on the Sabbath the priests in the temple profane the Sabbath, and are blameless?

<sup>6</sup> Yet I say to you that in this place there is One greater than the temple. <sup>7</sup> But if you had known what this means, 'I desire mercy and not sacrifice,' you would not have condemned the guiltless. <sup>8</sup> For the Son of Man is Lord even of the Sabbath." NKJV

### Facts Revealed:

- ✚ Jesus went through the grainfields on the Sabbath; and as they went His disciples were hungry and began to pluck the heads of grain. [Mark 2:23-28, Matthew 12:1-8, Luke 6:1-5]
- ✚ The Law is quite specific on this situation.
  - ✦ When you come into your neighbor's standing grain, you may pluck the heads with your hand, but you shall not use a sickle on your neighbor's standing grain. [Deuteronomy 23:25]
- ✚ The Pharisees challenged them for doing what they considered unlawful on the Sabbath. [Matthew 12:2 Mark 2:24, Luke 6:2]
  - ✦ It was the Pharisees who made the law that forbid this action, as work on the Sabbath, as part of their "Oral Law."
  - ✦ Jesus rebuked them for their oral law as teaching the commandments of men as doctrine and thus making the Word of God ineffective. [Matthew 15:1-20, Mark 7:1-23]
- ✚ Jesus used the example of David as he fled from king Saul who ate the show-bread and give it to his men. [1 Samuel 21:1-6, Matthew 12:3-4, Mark 2:25-26, Luke 6:3-4]
- ✚ Jesus also used the example of the priests who offer sacrifices which is very hard work on the Sabbath and they are not condemned for working on the Sabbath. [Matthew 12:5]
- ✚ Then Jesus went beyond all that and declared, "Yet I say to you that in this place there is **One greater than the temple.**" [Matthew 12:6]
  - ✦ Thus Jesus declared Himself as greater than the Temple.
- ✚ But if you had known what this means, 'I desire mercy and not sacrifice,' you would not have condemned the guiltless. [Matthew 12:7, Hosea 6:6]
  - ✦ The Pharisees, like so many today, condemn people for doing things based simply on their own traditions when it is not even mentioned in the Law of God, just because they do not know or understand the heart and spirit of the Law.
  - ✦ Thus they freely condemn the guiltless.
  - ✦ "Mercy triumphs over Judgment." [James 2:13]
- ✚ For the Son of Man is Lord even of the Sabbath. [Matthew 12:8, Mark 2:28, Luke 6:5]
  - ✦ The authority of Jesus over-rides the authority of the Law.
  - ✦ **All authority** has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. [Matthew 28:18, John 5:26-27, 17:1-2]
  - ✦ Thus Jesus is able to reveal the heart and spirit of the Law, as given by God His Father.