

*Series: It's a Miracle, # 8*

Compassion over Religion

**Matthew 12:1-14**

A miracle story seems a strange context for pondering compassion versus religious rules, but this passage contrasts the two:

- 1) David and his companions ate the sacred bread – vs. 4
- 2) Jewish priests worked in the Temple on the Sabbath – vs. 5
- 3) Jesus is greater than the Temple – vs. 6
- 4) God desires mercy more than ritual acts – vs. 7
- 5) The Lordship of Jesus takes precedence over rules – vs. 8
- 6) Doing good takes precedence over rules – vs. 12

Were the disciples really disobeying the 4<sup>th</sup> Commandment when they ate grain from the field?

Did Jesus disobey the Law when he healed the man in the synagogue?

To ponder: what religious rules do you follow, yet feel trapped by them, rather than blessed by them?

For next week, study: Luke 17:11-19

Exodus 20:8-11 “Remember the Sabbath day by keeping it holy. 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... for the Lord rested on the seventh day, and blessed it and made it holy.”

Leviticus 19:9-10 “When you reap the harvest of your land, do not reap to the very edges of your field or gather the gleanings of your harvest. Do not go over your vineyard a second time or pick up the grapes that have fallen. Leave them for the poor and the foreigner. I am the Lord your God.”  
(see also Deut. 24:19-22)

1 Samuel 21:1-6 “The priest gave David 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.”

Matthew 11:20-24 “Then Jesus began to denounce the towns in which most of his miracles had been performed, because they did not repent.”

Hosea 6:6 “For I desire mercy, not sacrifice, and acknowledgement of God rather than burnt offerings.”