

Study Hints for Thinking Further
International Bible Lessons

Luke 6:1-11

Sunday, January 5, 2014

L.G. Parkhurst, Jr.

Some Bible study groups or classes can further discussion by asking some or all of the **Five Questions for Discussion and Thinking Further** below. Others may want to send the bulletin size *International Bible Lesson* home with their students for further study in the coming week to encourage continuing Bible study. The *Study Hints for Thinking Further* below are not actually intended to be the answers to the discussion questions. These indeed are “hints” a teacher may use to help students think through and discuss the questions in class.

Five Questions for Discussion and Thinking Further

1. Whose law did Jesus’ disciples break on the Sabbath?

They broke the scribes and Pharisees’ interpretations of the Old Testament ceremonial laws that God gave through Moses. As the Lord of the Sabbath, Jesus had the authority and wisdom to rightly interpret and enforce God’s laws: both the ceremonial laws (feast, sacrifice, and worship laws are ceremonial laws) and the moral laws (the 10 Commandments are moral laws) of God.

2. What are some of the bad things that can happen when people make religious laws for people to obey that are not according to God’s laws?

People can develop a wrong understanding of God and the truth of God and His Word when they learn religious laws that are really invented by people rather than revealed by God. People can be led into sin and behaviors that destroy others and themselves when they follow some of the laws that some people claim are laws from God.

3. How did Jesus use the Bible when He replied to the Pharisees criticism of His disciples?

Jesus gave them an example from the life of David (whose descendant would be the Messiah), who did something no one condemned (not even God) when he broke a ceremonial law in order to love and care for his companions in a time of their desperate need and hunger. David rightly understood the purpose of the ceremonial law and obeyed the moral law of God when he did good and saved the lives of his companions. Jesus said that He was doing what David did. In the Bible, David left a good example to follow. Jesus also taught by example and became an example for His disciples to follow.

4. How did Jesus use common sense or logical reasoning when the Pharisees tried to find ways to accuse Him of violating their religious laws and traditions?

Jesus asked a question to make them think about what they were planning and if they were planning to do good or harm. Jesus did not just say to them: “It is unlawful to do harm or destroy life. It is lawful to do good and save life.” Jesus asked them a simple question that offered two alternatives to choose from and a reasonable person would conclude from the options Jesus gave, “It is never lawful to do harm or destroy life no matter what day it is. It is lawful to do good and save life, even if it is the Sabbath.”

5. In what way did the Pharisees break God’s law after Jesus healed the man with the withered hand?

In their hearts and minds they were angry that Jesus had done something good (which undermined their authority and power among the people). They then discussed what they could do to stop Jesus from doing good whenever it conflicted with their purposes and traditions. They also broke God’s law when they did not listen to Jesus and repent of their evil intentions when they went to the synagogue on the Sabbath.

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