



International Bible Lesson
Uniform Sunday School Lessons Series
L.G. Parkhurst, Jr.

Where Believers Meet God
June 3, 2018
Matthew 12:1-14

“I tell you that something greater than the temple is here” (Matthew 12:6).

One Sabbath day, Jesus and His disciples were walking through a grainfield to worship in a synagogue. Since the disciples were hungry, they obeyed the Law of God designed to feed the poor. God’s Law is the Law of Love; therefore, we read in Leviticus 23:22, “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. Leave them for the poor and for the foreigner residing among you. I am the LORD your God.” Obeying God, the disciples took some grain, rubbed it between their hands, and then ate the grain. When some Pharisees saw Jesus’ disciples, they accused them of lawbreaking for harvesting on the Sabbath and they reprimanded Jesus for permitting them to sin. So, Jesus went back to the Old Testament, to Hoses 6:6, and showed them where they were wrong: they had accused innocent men because they did not know “what these words mean, ‘I desire mercy, not sacrifice’” (Matthew 12:7). Then, Jesus claimed that as the Son of Man He was the Lord of the Sabbath who applied the Law of God rightly. Then, the Pharisees followed Jesus to the synagogue to see if they could accuse Him further. There, Jesus did good and helped those worshiping God on the Sabbath: He healed a man with a shriveled hand. As the supreme place of worship, people went to the temple to meet God. Because Jesus is greater than the temple, He claimed and proved by His words and actions that when people met Him they were meeting God. So, the Pharisees left to plot how they might kill Jesus.

Thinking Further

1. Why did the Pharisees accuse Jesus' disciples of doing something unlawful on the Sabbath?
2. In His response to them, what did Jesus say David had done (and he was not condemned for having done what he did)?
3. Why were the priests allowed to desecrate the Sabbath and were considered innocent?
4. What words from the prophets did Jesus say these Pharisees did not know?
5. After Jesus healed the man with the shriveled hand, what did the Pharisees decide to do?

Begin or close your class by reading the short weekly *International Bible Lesson*.

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