

The Jesus Story

What Day Is IT?

Rev. George Stephens

March 23, 2025

Jesus and Sabbath

Why are the Pharisees Fixated on the Sabbath?

- It's Quantifiable
- It's easily definable with personal works.
 - I can externally measure my holiness
 - I can let you know how holy I am
- Israel blatantly disregarded it before the exile.
- The Pharisees are fixated on EVERYTHING, but Jesus and the gospel writers may have focused on this because it is also easily communicated to outsiders.

Event 1: The Disciples "Winnow" Grain

"On a Sabbath, while he was going through the grainfields, his disciples plucked and ate some heads of grain, rubbing them in their hands." (Luke 6:1, ESV)

Jesus' Question:

"And Jesus answered them, "Have you not read what David did when he was hungry, he and those who were with him: how he entered the house of God and took and ate the bread of the Presence, which is not lawful for any but the priests to eat, and also gave it to those with him?"" (Luke 6:3–4, ESV)

Event 2: The Man With The Withered Hand:

“On another Sabbath, he entered the synagogue and was teaching, and a man was there whose right hand was withered. And the scribes and the Pharisees watched him, to see whether he would heal on the Sabbath, so that they might find a reason to accuse him.” (Luke 6:6–7, ESV)

Jesus’ Question:

“And Jesus said to them, “I ask you, is it lawful on the Sabbath to do good or to do harm, to save life or to destroy it?”” (Luke 6:9, ESV)

Principles to Consider:

1. A day is just a day. A thing is just a thing
2. God’s Design is to Benefit me
3. Holiness is from God filling every part of my life.

Questions:

1. Are there rules in your life that are preventing you from living it as God intended?
2. What are your disciplines that make you better?
3. How does God’s holiness influence your living?

Rev. George Stephens

March 23, 2025