

Lord of the Sabbath
Matthew 12:1-16

Review:

1. Legalism, such as the Pharisees' forbidding works of necessity, piety, and mercy on the Sabbath, cannot bring us into a right relationship with God
2. But because Jesus is Lord of the Sabbath, He is the only One Who decides what is right and wrong.
3. The Sabbath in particular and the Law in general is intended to draw people closer to God's love.

Reflect:

1. Have you ever been tempted to observe the Sabbath in a legalistic way? If so, how?
2. What part of Matthew 12:1-16 inspires you to spend more time with God? Why is this the case?

Go Further: Read Exodus 16

1. What is the complaint the people of Israel brought against Moses and Aaron in verses 1-3?
2. How did God respond to their complaint in verse 4?
3. How did God say He was going to put His people to the test?
4. What did God say He would provide for the people on the sixth day?
5. Against whom did Moses say the people were really complaining in verse 8?
6. What food did God provide for the people in verse 13?
7. What did God command the people to do with the manna in verse 16?
8. In spite of the different amounts of work they did in verse 17, what did the people discover in verse 18?
9. What did Moses tell the people not to do in verse 19?
10. When they tried to keep some of the manna for the next day, what does verse 20 say happened to it?
11. What was different about the amount of manna the people gathered on the sixth day?
12. What does verse 24 say happened when they tried to keep it over until the Sabbath day?
13. Why does verse 29 say God gave the people extra food on the sixth day?
14. How does verse 31 describe the manna?
15. How long does verse 35 say God gave manna to the people?

Summary and Application:

1. When we work on the Sabbath, what are we saying about God's ability to provide for us and protect us?
2. In the Lord's Prayer, Jesus tells us to ask God each day for our daily bread. Having read Exodus 16, what role do you think our daily work plays in God's providence?
3. What do you do on Sundays that helps draw you closer to God? How can you extend these practices throughout the week, so that you can gather God's blessings every day?