

EASY BIBLE LESSONS

Following Religious Legalism versus Jesus

Luke 6:1-11

1 One sabbath while Jesus was going through the grainfields, his disciples plucked some heads of grain, rubbed them in their hands, and ate them. 2 But some of the Pharisees said, "Why are you doing what is not lawful on the sabbath?" 3 Jesus answered, "Have you not read what David did when he and his companions were hungry? 4 He entered the house of God and took and ate the bread of the Presence, which it is not lawful for any but the priests to eat, and gave some to his companions?" 5 Then he said to them, "The Son of Man is lord of the sabbath."

6 On another sabbath he entered the synagogue and taught, and there was a man there whose right hand was withered. 7 The scribes and the Pharisees watched him to see whether he would cure on the sabbath, so that they might find an accusation against him. 8 Even though he knew what they were thinking, he said to the man who had the withered hand, "Come and stand here." He got up and stood there. 9 Then Jesus said to them, "I ask you, is it lawful to do good or to do harm on the sabbath, to save life or to destroy it?" 10 After looking around at all of them, he said to him, "Stretch out your hand." He did so, and his hand was restored. 11 But they were filled with fury and discussed with one another what they might do to Jesus. — NRSV

BIBLE QUESTIONS FOR THINKING PEOPLE

Why do you think the Pharisees went to Jesus about what His disciples were doing? Was it just to complain? Were they trying to find something wrong with Jesus' example and teachings? Were they genuinely concerned about the disciples' relationship with God as manifested by their obedience or disobedience to the law?

What does Jesus teach about obeying God's laws and man's laws or traditions?

Why do you think Jesus brought up what David did? Was He justifying disobedience on the basis that if David did wrong then we can do wrong too?

Why do you think Jesus allowed His disciples to remain in poverty, so they had to hungrily harvest and eat with their hands the grain standing in the field, when He could easily have fed them miraculously? What does that teach us about poverty and Jesus' approach to poverty and the poor?

What should we do on Sunday if we believe that Jesus is the Lord of the Sabbath?