

## The Higher Principle

Matthew 12:1-21

### Introduction:

- Is it ever permissible to break any of the following laws?
  1. Breaking and entering
  2. Exceeding the speed limit
  3. Stealing
- The Sabbath day
  1. There is only one w\_\_\_\_\_ law concerning the Sabbath day (Ex 20:8-11)
  2. Traditional Judaism had hundreds of o\_\_\_\_\_ laws concerning the Sabbath day.
- Our lesson – to follow God’s higher principle even if it means b\_\_\_\_\_ man’s law or God’s law, and to exhibit the right attitudes and actions.

### The Higher Principle of Physical Needs (1-4)

- The situation
  1. The disciples became hungry and began p\_\_\_\_\_ the heads off the grain in a nearby field (see Deut 23:25).
  2. Since this day was a s\_\_\_\_\_ day, the Pharisees asked Jesus why they were doing this unlawful thing? (it violated their o\_\_\_\_\_ law).
- Jesus responds by pointing the Pharisees to the w\_\_\_\_\_ word (1Sam 21:1-6)
  1. David and his men were r\_\_\_\_\_ from Saul and had become hungry.
  2. They came to the city of the h\_\_\_\_\_ priest and asked for food.
  3. The only food available was the holy b\_\_\_\_\_ which only the priests were allowed to eat (see Lev 24:9).
  4. The priest gave the loaves to David and his men.
- Jesus is teaching that physical needs are a higher principle
  1. The argument – if it was permissible for G\_\_\_\_\_ written law to be broken to meet David’s need of hunger, how much more permissible is it for the disciples to break rabbinical oral law to meet their need of hunger.
  2. This requires that no one else be d\_\_\_\_\_ of their physical needs in meeting another’s physical need.

- a. So, stealing food from someone to meet my need of hunger would be w\_\_\_\_\_.
- b. Exceeding the speed limit to save a person's life would be r\_\_\_\_\_ as long as no one else's life is being endangered.

### **The Higher Principle of Serving the Lord (5-6)**

- Jesus responds with a second example from the w\_\_\_\_\_ word.
  1. The Sabbath law was to be obeyed by everyone except the p\_\_\_\_\_.
  2. Num 28:9 gives the duty of (1) b\_\_\_\_\_ sheep on the Sabbath day for that day's sacrifice and (2) m\_\_\_\_\_ oil with over a bushel of flour on the Sabbath day for the grain sacrifice.
- Jesus was teaching that serving the Lord should never be s\_\_\_\_\_ in order to keep a law.
  1. Jesus left us here on earth to s\_\_\_\_\_ Him in our jobs, family, leisure, etc. (Col 3:17).
  2. Many f\_\_\_\_\_ losing their job, families, friends, etc over their Christianity and so f\_\_\_\_\_ to grab opportunities which God clearly puts before them.
  3. G\_\_\_\_\_ those opportunities God puts before you to serve Him.

### **The Higher Principle of Compassion (7-14)**

- Jesus responds with a third point from the w\_\_\_\_\_ word (Hosea 6:6).
  1. Jesus charges the Pharisees with not knowing the m\_\_\_\_\_ of the passage.
    - a. Sacrifice can be done without thought (e.g. C\_\_\_\_\_)
    - b. God values compassion above sacrifice.
  2. Jesus charges against the Pharisees were proven by their lack of c\_\_\_\_\_.
    - a. They c\_\_\_\_\_ the innocent (v. 7)
    - b. They were more compassionate toward animals than a human being in n\_\_\_\_\_ (vv. 10-12).
    - c. They sought to k\_\_\_\_\_ Jesus for healing the man (v. 14).
- Overzealous Christians have been guilty of lacking compassion
  1. In standing against abortion (heckled, name-calling)
  2. In standing against the gay lifestyle (exhibited h\_\_\_\_\_)
- We must hate the s\_\_\_\_\_ but l\_\_\_\_\_ the sinner.