

LUKE Lesson 14

Chapter 6:1-12, The Righteousness of the Pharisees

7 September 2018

Vs 1 The second Sabbath is the normal weekly Sabbath that follows a High Sabbath. This situation occurs only during one of the three Jewish Feasts (see Lev 23:7, 24, 35).

Jesus' disciples ate corn as they passed through some fields. This practice was allowed by Law (Deut 23:24-25).

Vs 2 The Pharisees got upset and accused Jesus' disciples of violating the Sabbath Law. Were they right?

The Pharisees were outwardly righteous (Mt 5:20). Our righteousness must exceed theirs.

The Pharisees were often rebuked by Jesus, but they had some things right:

- Mt 23:2-3 Jesus told everyone to observe and do what the scribes and Pharisees taught.
 - You've got to go beyond the mere teaching of doctrine if you're going to "exceed" their righteousness.
 - Mt 23:15 The scribes and Pharisees went to great lengths to make one convert.
 - They were diligent, dedicated, and committed to that work. Are you?
 - Mt 23:23 They paid tithes faithfully.
 - Mt 23:25 They were clean and decent and right on the outside.
 - Lk 18:10-12 Not an extortioner or an adulterer, fasting twice a week, tithing.
 - Acts 23:7-8 The Pharisees believed in the resurrection and angels (see 1 Cor 15:19).
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Vs 3 Jesus avoided confrontation and arguments with these men by quoting scripture (Lk 10:26, Jn 8:17).

Vs 4 The Bible account that Jesus used pointed out that love trumps (exceeds) the Law. This is what the Pharisees were lacking. Jesus summed up the Law as loving God supremely and loving your neighbor as yourself (Mt 22:37-39, Mk 12:30-31). The Pharisees excelled in the LETTER of the Law, but not in the SPIRIT of the Law. That's why the Law became a heavy burden (Mt 23:4).

5-10 The Pharisees were in the synagogue listening to Jesus—HOPING to find something they could criticize and condemn. When Jesus healed a man on the Sabbath, the Pharisees once again rebuked Him for not adhering to the letter of the Law.

When you're in the church, you ought to be looking for knowledge, wisdom, understanding, fellowship, and blessings. If you're only looking for something to disagree with or complain about, you're a Pharisee.

The spirit of the Law is grace and love, not condemnation, rules, and regulations. That's why it was more important to heal the man on the Sabbath than to follow the letter of the Law.

The spiritual person goes beyond a strict belief in the Bible. They will **condescend to men of low estate** (Rom 12:16), **esteem other better than themselves** (Php 2:3), and look for ways to help someone instead of looking to condemn them with the word of God.

Don't let your vast Bible knowledge alienate you from the fellowship of the brethren. Draw close to the Lord and observe how He adhered to and depended upon the scriptures, but His goal was to help people and be a blessing to others.

THREE THINGS JESUS KNOWS

1. He knows the word (vs 3).
2. He knew their thoughts (vs 8).
3. He knows how to help (vs 10).

Vs 11 The Pharisees were "**filled with madness.**" The term "mad" in the Bible means they lost their minds (1 Sam 21:13, Acts 26:11, 24, Eccl 9:3, 2 Pet 2:16, 1 Cor 14:23).

When they had a controversy with a man, they "**communed one with another**" instead of with God.

Vs 12 Jesus certainly had a controversy with these Pharisees, but He didn't take his complaints to another man, He prayed to His Father in Heaven.

When something or someone is troubling you, don't get on the phone; get on your knees!
