



**May 31, 2026**

“Jesus is Lord of Sabbath”

**Luke 6:1-5**

### **Context**

- Jesus forgave the sins of the paralytic — a clear claim to deity
- Jesus says his new wine (grace) must have new wineskins (old religious structures)
- The new covenant: grace/law; flesh/spirit; external/internal; do/done

### **Luke 6:1-5**

*On a Sabbath, while he was going through the grainfields, his disciples plucked and ate some heads of grain, rubbing them in their hands. But some of the Pharisees said, "Why are you doing what is not lawful to do on the Sabbath?" 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?" And he said to them, "The Son of Man is lord of the Sabbath."*

- On a Sabbath (the seventh/last day of creation)
- When God rested — **not for himself** for he neither slumbers nor sleeps

### **Psalm 121:4**

*Behold, he who keeps Israel will neither slumber nor sleep.*

- God never sleeps so we can
- The purpose of the Sabbath:
  1. A day of rest
  2. A day of refreshment
  3. A day to prioritize God as first in our lives
  4. A day where we rest, so God can work on our behalf
- Jesus said that the Sabbath was made for us — **Mark 2:27**

Back to the story in Luke's gospel:

- On a Sabbath Jesus and his disciples were going through a grainfield
- They plucked some heads of grain and rubbed them in their hands
- And ate the grain because they were hungry (imagine corn on the cob)
- God gave laws governing grainfields

### **Deuteronomy 23:24–25**

*If you go into your neighbor's vineyard, you may eat your fill of grapes, as many as you wish, but you shall not put any in your bag. If you go into your neighbor's standing grain, you may pluck the ears with your hand, but you shall not put a sickle to your neighbor's standing grain.*

- This behavior was perfectly legal: no sickles/harvesting of another's field
- Obviously, Jesus permitted it — his disciples were hungry
- God's laws always prioritized caring for human need/hunger
- God's law prioritized mercy above obedience

### **Luke 6:2**

*But some of the Pharisees said, "Why are you doing what is not lawful to do on the Sabbath?"*

- Some of the Pharisees object to Jesus's disciples' behavior
- The “you” here is plural — including Jesus?
- The teacher/rabbi was responsible for the behavior of his disciples
- The teachers of the Law increased the 10 Commandments to 613 laws
- The Mishnah became over 1,000 different interpretations of the entire Mosaic law
- Many of these laws addressed what is lawful or not on the Sabbath
- Rubbing grain was considered work by the Pharisees on the Sabbath
- Thus, the condemnation of Jesus’s disciples

### **Luke 6:3-4**

*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?"*

- Jesus took them to David in **1 Samuel 21:1-6**
- David and his disciples are running from King Saul who wants him dead
- They are hungry
- David permits them to eat the shewbread in the holy place in the tabernacle
- Only the priests were permitted to eat this bread according to **Leviticus 24:5-9**
- But David's men were allowed to eat it because of David's authority as king
- Jesus's point: HOW MUCH MORE can David's Lord and King authorize meeting human need?
- Again, the Law prioritizes mercy above obedience

### **Luke 6:5**

*And he said to them, "The Son of Man is lord of the Sabbath."*

- The Son of Man is the Lord of the Sabbath
- This is an extraordinary and astounding claim by Jesus to deity
- The three most often used terms to describe Jesus:

1. **Christ:**

- A title meaning "Anointed One"
  - Or "Messiah"
  - It's not Jesus's last name!
2. **Lord:**
- Adonai in the OT; Kurios in the NT
  - A sovereign, supreme title exclusive to God alone
3. **Son of Man:**
- Used 92 times, it's a name for the coming Messiah found in:

#### **Daniel 7:9-14**

*As I looked, thrones were placed, and the Ancient of Days took his seat; his clothing was white as snow, and the hair of his head like pure wool; his throne was fiery flames; its wheels were burning fire. A stream of fire issued and came out from before him; a thousand thousands served him, and ten thousand times ten thousand stood before him; the court sat in judgment, and the books were opened. I looked then because of the sound of the great words that the horn was speaking. And as I looked, the beast was killed, and its body destroyed and given over to be burned with fire. As for the rest of the beasts, their dominion was taken away, but their lives were prolonged for a season and a time. I saw in the night visions, and behold, with the clouds of heaven there came one like a SON OF MAN (caps mine), and he came to the Ancient of Days and was presented before him. And to him was given dominion and glory and a kingdom, that all peoples, nations, and languages should serve him; his dominion is an everlasting dominion, which shall not pass away, and his kingdom one that shall not be destroyed.*

- Jesus: "I am the Son of Man" from Daniel 7:13-14 and I am the Adonai/Kurios of the Sabbath"
- Do you see what Jesus was saying to the Pharisees?
- Here it is: "I created the Sabbath"

#### **Genesis 2:1-2**

*Thus the heavens and the earth were finished, and all the host of them.*

*And on the seventh day God finished his work that he had done, and he rested on the seventh day from all his work that he had done.*

- "Since I created the Sabbath, I can tell my disciples to do whatever I wish them to do on the day that I created!"
- Astounding!! It's a clear claim to Jesus being God
- The apostles believed this. From Paul:

### **Colossians 1:15-16**

*He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation. For by him all things were created, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—all things were created through him and for him.*

## **Application**

1. The Christian faith is a relationship, not rule-following
2. Yes, you need one day a week for Sabbath rest
3. But every day should be a Sabbath rest

### **Hebrews 4:9-10**

*So then, there remains a Sabbath rest for the people of God, for whoever has entered God's rest has also rested from his works as God did from his.*

- Work hard at the rest of faith
- God will supply your every need
- It's not just do/done

## **IT'S PURSUIT/PURSUED**

- It's either I keep pursuing God by my works, hoping he approves of me

OR...

- The Son of Man, the Adonai/Kurios of the universe, the One who created

the Sabbath is pursuing you to have an eternal relationship with him

- Leaving heaven's glory to enter this world's hurt and pain
- Not on what you do for him, but what he has done for you...

### **On the Cross, he paid it all...**

- The Lord of the universe took my place on his cross...
- Jesus is God, not created by God
- the heart of the Christian faith
- God died in your place for the forgiveness of your sins
- Do you believe this?
- It's essential for your eternal salvation

In the early church, a priest named Arius promoted a belief that Jesus was created by God and not equal to God, His Son, God in human flesh

- His heresy spread. Churches and leaders were increasingly divided.
- 318 leaders gathered from around the known world, from Spain to Persia, to a city named Nicaea from May to August in 325 A.D., to answer once and for all the most important question in the Christian faith: **Is Jesus God?**
- Their vote was to affirm what the apostles had always taught:

### **Philippians 2:5-11**

*Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus, who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, but emptied himself, by taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross. Therefore God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.*

- This is what the historic church had always believed.
- The vote was 315 to 2.
- Arius was condemned. His books were burned. His teaching was declared heretical.
- The result of this council was what we know to be the **Nicene Creed**.

For those of us who believe that Jesus was God, the Lord of the Sabbath, let us stand and affirm our faith:

### **The Nicene Creed**

*I believe in one God,  
the Father almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth,  
of all things visible and invisible.  
And in one Lord Jesus Christ,  
the Only Begotten Son of God,  
born of the Father before all ages.  
God from God, Light from Light,  
true God from true God,  
begotten, not made,  
consubstantial with the Father;  
through him all things were made.  
For us men and for our salvation  
he came down from heaven,  
and by the Holy Spirit  
was incarnate of the Virgin Mary,  
and became man.  
For our sake  
he was crucified under Pontius Pilate,  
he suffered death and was buried,  
and rose again on the third day  
in accordance with the Scriptures.  
He ascended into heaven and is seated  
at the right hand of the Father.*

*He will come again in glory  
to judge the living and the dead  
and his kingdom will have no end.  
And in the Holy Spirit, the Lord,  
the giver of life, who proceeds  
from the Father and the Son,  
who with the Father and the Son  
is adored and glorified,  
who has spoken through the prophets.  
And one, holy, catholic  
and apostolic Church.  
I confess one baptism  
for the forgiveness of sins  
and I look forward to the resurrection  
of the dead  
and the life of the world to come. Amen.*

**My final question:**

*Do you believe that **Jesus is the Son of Man, Lord over all the world, creator of the Sabbath?** That Jesus **died** for all your sins? The pursuer of your eternal soul has accomplished the work of your salvation **DONE** for you?*

Your answer will determine your eternal destiny.