



New Hebron Missionary Baptist Church

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Pastor Rodney E. Smith, Sr.
Bible Study

“...from a child thou hast known the holy scriptures, which are able to make thee wise unto salvation...”

(2 Tim. 3:15)

Biblical Boldness

{Matthew 12:1-8} also {Mk. 2:23-28; Lk. 6:1-5}

It's hard to handle criticism, especially when the criticism that is used against us is unjust, unfair and unreasonable. Whether we are ready for it or not as we continue to live for Christ it is certain to come. If we are not careful we can easily allow the flesh to compel us into using carnal methods to defend ourselves in ways that do not bring glory to God. To handle these awkward moments properly takes self-discipline and total dependence on the Word of God. From God's Word we gain confidence to be able to stand in the most difficult times.

v.1) “At that time Jesus went on the sabbath day through the corn; and his disciples were an hungred, and began to pluck the ears of corn, and to eat.”

- “his disciples were an hungred” – His disciples may have missed dinner or not had breakfast and naturally they were hungry .
- This also highlights the fundamental principle that although we are committed followers of Christ that does not guarantee an abundance of material goods. {Jn. 12:8; Lk. 9:57,58; Heb. 11:35b-37}
- “corn” – [Grk.] stachus (*stakh'-oos*): a head of grain. In 1611 (*when KJV was translated*) the word corn referred to any grain.
- The disciples were taking the seed from wheat or barley and rubbing their hands together {Lk. 6:1} to help remove the husk or the chaff to be able to eat it. {Ps. 1:4}

v.2) “But when the Pharisees saw it, they said unto him, Behold, thy disciples do that which is not lawful to do upon the sabbath day.”

- “the Pharisees saw it” – they were His worst enemies and they were following Him in the fields looking for a reason to bring Him down. {Matt. 22:15; Lk. 6:7; Jn. 11:53}
- We should be aware of the fact that anyone doing the Lord's work will have unjust criticism as well.

- The essence of their complaint against Jesus was that His disciples were working on the Sabbath day. {Ex. 31:15}

v.3,4) “But he said unto them, Have ye not read what David did, when he was an hungred, and they that were with him; How he entered into the house of God, and did eat the shewbread, which was not lawful for him to eat, neither for them which were with him, but only for the priests?”

- “have ye not read” – Jesus pointed out that the Pharisees did not know the scriptures as they should. And we must use the same pattern that Jesus used. We are not to use mouth, teeth and gums, but book, chapter and verse.
- We are to be well acquainted with what God says in His word. {2 Tim. 2:15; Ps. 119:11}
- Jesus reminds them of 1 Samuel 21:1-6 about David eating the showbread from the Tabernacle that was meant for the priests to eat. Jesus is showing them that when a moral obligation clashes with a ceremonial law, the law must be put aside to do the right thing.
- One thing o take note of is that we must have the courage to stand even when what we assay is not favorable.

v.5,6) “Or have ye not read in the law, how that on the sabbath days the priests in the temple profane the sabbath, and are blameless? But I say unto you, That in this place is one greater than the temple.”

- “the priests in the temple profane the Sabbath” – Jesus is making a reference t the sacrifices that were slain and the fires that were made for the sacrifices to be offered to God.
- There was much work being done in the Tabernacle on the Sabbath but it was not a bad thing because it was being done as a part of divine service. And His disciples were hungry as they were following Him doing His service.
- “greater than the temple” – the Jews esteemed nothing greater than the temple, except for the God who was worshipped in it. Christ, by asserting he was greater than the temple, asserts that He was God.

v.7,8) “But if ye had known what this meaneth, I will have mercy, and not sacrifice, ye would not have condemned the guiltless. For the Son of man is Lord even of the sabbath day.”

- Christ’s statement was based on Hosea 6:6. He is telling His enemies that they were more concerned about people obeying man made laws and traditions than about helping the needy.

Notes:
