

Sunday School Live Lesson

July 13, 2025

Lord of the Sabbath

[Jesus Handles the Opposition]

Matthew 12:1-8

Instructor: Ralph Gordon

Sunday School Lesson

Questions for Us Today

July 13, 2025

2

How do you feel about keeping the Sabbath holy?

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Objective

July 13, 2025

3

To understand this passage, where Jesus is confronted by the Pharisees.

Sunday School Lesson Segments – 1

July 13, 2025

1. Bibliography

2. Points of Information: Matthew

Sunday School Lesson Segments - 2

July 13, 2025

3. Lesson Context

4. Lesson Text

5. Remember This

Points of Information – Matthew

Matthew became one of the original Twelve Disciples when he was called by Christ Jesus. This was recorded by Luke (5:27-28), by Mark (2:14) and by Matthew himself (9:9).

6

The Gospel according to Matthew is one of the three Synoptic Gospels – written with similar content, points of view and sequence. The others were written by Mark and Luke.

Points of Information – Matthew

Before being called to Discipleship by Jesus, Matthew's occupation was as a tax collector. This line of work was dreaded by the populace for at least a couple of reasons. These servants of the Roman Empire collected taxes for the despised and oppressive government. And, with the government's permission, they were allowed to collect extra monies above the tax amounts for themselves. Hence, they were regarded as veritable "leeches" upon their own people.

Points of Information – Matthew

As he establishes the case for Jesus as the Messiah, Matthew begins the Gospel (Verses 1:1-17) with a genealogical listing – tracing the lineage of Jesus as the Son of God from the Hebrew patriarch, Abraham.

Points of Information – Matthew

Through the aid of the Holy Spirit, Matthew wrote a Gospel which set out to clearly identify Jesus as the Jewish Messiah who had been foretold in Scriptures – and who was descended royally from King David. The primary audience for this message initially consisted of Matthew's fellow Jews.

Lord of the Sabbath

Lesson Context

In Chapters 5 through 7, of the Gospel according to Matthew, the writer gives us a detailed account of the Sermon on the Mount by Jesus.

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Lesson Context

In the 8th Chapter, Matthew tells us about Jesus' calming commandment to a raging sea.

[Have you heard the song: “Peace, be still?”]

Lord of the Sabbath

Lesson Context

Chapters 9 and 10 contain additional words of wisdom from Christ Jesus:

1. “The harvest is truly plenteous, but the labourers are few.”
2. “Be ye therefore wise as serpents, and harmless as doves.”

Lord of the Sabbath

Lesson Context

In Chapter 11, Jesus continues to walk with and talk to His disciples.

Now, we come to a confrontation with the presumptive experts on the Law – the Pharisees.

Matthew 12:1 (NIV)

At that time, Jesus went through the grainfields on the Sabbath. His disciples were hungry and began to pick some heads of grain and eat them.

Matthew 12:2

When the Pharisees saw this, they said to Him, “Look! Your disciples are doing what is unlawful on the Sabbath.”

Matthew 12:3

He answered, “Haven’t you read what David did when he and his companions were hungry?”

Matthew 12:4

“He entered the House of God, and he and his companions ate the consecrated bread – which was not lawful for them to do, but only for the priests.

Matthew 12:5

“Or haven’t you read in the Law that the priests on Sabbath duty in the temple desecrate the Sabbath and yet are innocent?”

Matthew 12:6

“I tell you that something greater than the temple is here.

Matthew 12:7

“If you had known what these words mean, ‘I desire mercy, not sacrifice,’ you would not have condemned the innocent.

Matthew 12:8

“For the Son of Man is Lord of the Sabbath.”

Remember This:

With an attitude of the Beatitudes, let us keep the Sabbath holy – however we can.

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23

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NEXT Sunday School Live Lesson

July 20, 2025

Cleansing the Temple

John 2:13-25

28

Instructor: Michael McCants