

“Are We Breaking the Sabbath?”

(Luke 13:10-17)

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I. Introduction

A. Flyers on cars

1. You may have received one
2. Difficult to understand
3. Accuse us of violating the Sabbath
4. Say we're meeting on the wrong day of the week

B. What's up with the Sabbath?

1. Do we have it all wrong?
 - a. Are a billion Christians worshipping on the wrong day?
 - b. Have we gotten it wrong for 2000 years?
2. What can or can't we do on the Sabbath?
 - a. Eating out at restaurants?
 - b. Mowing my lawn....raking leaves
 - c. Can we only go to church and take naps?
3. My dad and the Tigers baseball
4. Many in this community are rightfully confused
 - a. A controversial issue
 - b. Importance

C. This morning, Jesus accused of breaking the Sabbath

II. Review

A. Jesus finished a great sermon

B. Preached on Luke 13:1-9 on September 11

1. “The Third Tower”

C. Now, Jesus gets a speaking invitation

III. Text...Luke 13:10-17

A. The Invitation (v. 10)

(10) On a Sabbath Jesus was teaching in one of the synagogues,

1. Not uncommon for Jesus
 - a. Luke 4:16

“As was his custom, he entered the synagogue on the Sabbath.”

2. They asked him to speak
 - a. Probably packed it out.
3. What you ought to know about the Sabbath?
 - a. *The word means “cessation” or “time of rest”*
 1. Hebrew word “Shabbat”
 - b. *It refers to the seventh day of the week*
 1. We would say Saturday
 2. The Jews would say from sundown on Friday till sundown on Saturday
 - c. *The Jews still meet on that day*
 1. As do the Seventh Day Adventists

2. As do the Muslims
3. Preaching at a church in Bangladesh
 - a. Friday night

d. Sunday is not the Sabbath

1. Does that mean we're meeting on the wrong day?
2. More later

e. The Sabbath was given as a gift from God

1. A time of rest and worship
2. As they became a nation after the Exodus
3. Exodus 20:8-11

(8) Remember the Sabbath day by keeping it holy. (9) Six days you shall labor and do all your work, (10) but the seventh day is a Sabbath to the Lord your God. On it you shall not do any work, neither you, nor your son or daughter, nor your manservant or maidservant, nor your animals, nor the alien within your gates. (11) For in six days the Lord made the heavens and the earth, the sea, and all that is in them, but he rested on the seventh day. Therefore the Lord blessed the Sabbath day and made it holy.

4. "The Sabbaths were given to Israel...to be kept by Israel...as a sign between Israel and God forever." (Charles Alber)

- a. The branch...final 7 years

f. The Jews turned the gift into a nightmare

1. They embellished the Sabbath with endless rules and regulations
2. It became the most dreaded day of the week
3. "If you obey the rules....good enough to deserve salvation"

g. Jesus broke the Sabbath

(10) On a Sabbath Jesus was teaching in one of the synagogues,

4. What is a synagogue?

- a. Only one temple...in Jerusalem
 - 1. Place for sacrifices
 - b. Lots of synagogues then and now
 - c. Synagogue means a “gathering place”
 - 1. Like our local churches
 - d. Was called a house of instruction
5. How were they run?
- a. No pastors, preachers or priests
 - b. Had a lay board of elders
 - c. The chairman of the board was called the ruler
 - d. The spokesman for the elders
6. They came into existence during the 70 year captivity in Babylon
- a. When they went back under Nehemiah to rebuild Jerusalem and the Temple, they took back the idea of the synagogue and they flourished

B. The Infirmary (vs. 11-13)

(11) and a woman was there who had been crippled by a spirit for eighteen years. She was bent over and could not straighten up at all.

- 1. What she must have looked like
 - a. All bent over
 - b. Considered her a sinner
 - 1. Their basic view of theology was if you suffer, you’re being punished by God
 - c. Tormented by a demon
 - d. Seated with the women in the back of the synagogue

2. Then Jesus spotted her

(12) When Jesus saw her, he called her forward and said to her, “Woman, you are set free from your infirmity.” (13) Then he put his hands on her, and immediately she straightened up and praised God.

3. “set free”

a. No details

4. “from your infirmity”

a. “astheneai” (as then’ i ah)

b. A very generic word meaning weakness, illness or disease

5. How Jesus healed

“and immediately she straightened up and praised God”

a. Immediately

b. Completely

c. Permanently

6. Her response was to immediately praise God

C. The Indignation (v. 14)

(14) Indignant because Jesus had healed on the Sabbath, the synagogue ruler said to the people, “There are six days for work. So come and be healed on those days, not on the Sabbath.”

1. “How dare you!”

a. “You know better than to heal on the Sabbath!”

b. What a shocking response to a miracle of compassion

2. You can feel his arrogance and indignation

a. Didn’t even address Jesus

b. Posed the argument to the crowd

- c. There are six other days to heal
3. Utter disregard for the misery of that poor woman

D. The Insights (vs. 15-17)

(15) The Lord answered him, “You hypocrites! Doesn’t each of you on the Sabbath untie his ox or donkey from the stall and lead it out to give it water?”

1. *“You hypocrites”*
 - a. Ouch!
2. Everyone knew that they too broke the Sabbath law
 - a. “Untying” is a violation of the Sabbath law
 - b. They broke their rules to give a drink to a thirsty donkey
 - c. Could lead them to water...but couldn’t make them drink
 - d. Couldn’t hold the bucket up to their mouth
3. Jesus never argued that he didn’t break the Sabbath
 - a. Compassion is the heart of God’s law
 - b. Galatians 5:13-14

(13) You, my brothers, were called to be free. But do not use your freedom to indulge the sinful nature; rather, serve one another in love. (14) The entire law is summed up in a single command: “Love your neighbor as yourself.”

4. This woman is more important than your donkeys

(16) Then should not this woman, a daughter of Abraham, whom Satan has kept bound for eighteen long years, be set free on the Sabbath day from what bound her?”

5. Besides... even the law allows you to help someone on the Sabbath.
 - a. If a lamb falls into a ditch on the Sabbath
 - b. Watering the livestock
6. And...who actually did any work?

- a. Not Jesus or the woman
- 7. And wouldn't the Sabbath be the best day to heal her?
- 8. Their response to Jesus was "*How dare you!*"
- 9. His response to them was "*Shame on you!*"

(17) When he said this, all his opponents were humiliated,

They were stopped dead in their tracks. The people knew what could be done on the Sabbath. They watered and fed their livestock on the Sabbath. They were unmasked. They had been stripped. Their pretense had been uncovered. They looked like fools. They were put to shame. (MacArthur)

(17) ... but the people were delighted with all the wonderful things he was doing.

IV. Are we violating the Sabbath?

A. The brochures on cars

- 1. Say it was a pagan practice begun by Constantine in 321 AD
 - a. Pushed by Roman Catholicism
 - b. Incorporated due to the worship of the sun as a god
 - c. Some say that worshipping on Sunday is the mark of the beast.
- 2. Hold that we should be worshipping on Saturday...the Jewish Sabbath
 - a. Although that would actually be Friday night

B. Is Sunday the Sabbath?

- 1. No!
- 2. The Sabbath is the last day of the week
- 3. Sunday is the first day of the week

C. The importance of a day of rest and worship

- 1. But the church was not told which one

2. Romans 14:5-6

(5) One man considers one day more sacred than another; another man considers every day alike. Each one should be fully convinced in his own mind. (6) He who regards one day as special, does so to the Lord.

D. Then, why do we worship on Sunday instead of Saturday?

1. Scripture shows the early church meeting on the first day of the week

a. Communion in Acts 20:7

On the first day of the week we came together to break bread. Paul spoke to the people and, because he intended to leave the next day, kept on talking until midnight.

b. The collection in I Corinthians 16:1-2

(1) Now about the collection for God's people: Do what I told the Galatian churches to do. (2) On the first day of every week, each one of you should set aside a sum of money in keeping with his income, saving it up, so that when I come no collections have to be made.

c. The church was born on the first day of the week

1. Pentecost

2. It was to honor and remember the resurrection of Jesus on the first day of the week

a. It had nothing to do with the sun god or the name Sunday

1. Names given to that day by the Romans

a. Sunday....the sun

b. Saturday....Saturn

b. They immediately called that day "***The Lord's Day***"

1. The final words of the Apostle John in Revelation 1:10

a. ***On the Lord's Day I was in the Spirit***

c. We still appropriately call it "The Lord's Day"

3. Numerous writings of the "Early Church Fathers" document the church meeting on "The Lord's Day"

a. Ignatius 107 AD

Let every friend of Christ keep the Lord's Day as a festival, the resurrection day, the queen and chief of all the days of the week

b. Justin 150 AD

And on the day called Sunday there is a gathering together in the same place of all who live in a city or a rural district...We all make our assembly in common on the day of the sun, since it is the first day....and Jesus Christ our Savior arose from the dead on the same day.

c. The Didache (14:1) (did' e ke)

1. Written during the first century

a. While some of the Apostles were still alive

2. Assemble on the Lord's Day, and break bread and offer the Eucharist (communion); but first make confession of your faults, so that your sacrifice may be a pure one.

E. Is it okay to treat Sunday like a Sabbath day?

1. In some ways, yes

a. Gather together to worship

1. The importance of being here

2. When I'm gone for a week...

3. Hebrews 10:25

(25) Let us not give up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but let us encourage one another—and all the more as you see the Day approaching.

b. Take a break from normal life

c. Contemplate God's goodness to us

d. Give to the ministry of the church

2. What about:

- a. Those who have to work?
 - 1. My dad always had to work on the Lord's Day
 - 2. And so do I
- b. What about tennis, softball, golf, the beach....?
- c. The great lawn mowing controversy

F. The Church is different from Israel

- 1. The Sabbath was part of the Mosaic Law given to Israel during the Exodus
 - a. Why the church won't go through the Tribulation
- 2. The Law was given to a special people at a special time for a special purpose:
 - a. To insure the Jews remained separated from other people
 - b. To keep a pure line for the Messiah
 - c. To serve as a tutor until Christ arrived
 - 1. Galatians 3:23-25

(23) Before this faith came, we were held prisoners by the law, locked up until faith should be revealed. (24) So the law was put in charge to lead us to Christ that we might be justified by faith. (25) Now that faith has come, we are no longer under the supervision of the law.

- 3. We're now under Grace...not the Law
 - a. No more dietary laws for the early church
 - 1. Peter's encounter with the non-kosher animals
 - 2. God showed him three times
 - 3. "What was I to do!"
 - b. Paul's correction of Peter regarding circumcision and others
 - 1. Galatians 2:11

(11) When Peter came to Antioch, I opposed him to his face, because he was clearly in the wrong

a. Wow!

(14) When I saw that they were not acting in line with the truth of the gospel, I said to Peter in front of them all, “You are a Jew. How is it, then, that you force Gentiles to follow Jewish customs?”

2. You don't need to become a ceremonial Jew to become a Christian
3. We're not under the Law

c. No more special days

1. Why Paul wrote Galatians (MacArthur)

Paul wrote Galatians to counter Judaizing false teachers who were undermining the central New Testament doctrine of justification by faith. Ignoring the express decree of the Jerusalem Council, they spread their dangerous teaching that Gentiles must first become Jewish proselytes and submit to all the Mosaic Law before they could become Christians. Shocked by the Galatians' openness to that damning heresy, Paul wrote this letter to defend justification by faith, and warn these churches of the dire consequences of abandoning that essential doctrine

2. Galatians 4:9-11

(9) But now that you know God—or rather are known by God—how is it that you are turning back to those weak and miserable principles? Do you wish to be enslaved by them all over again? (10) You are observing special days and months and seasons and years! (11) I fear for you, that somehow I have wasted my efforts on you.

4. But should we obey the Ten Commandments?
 - a. We are not under any of the Law...including the Ten Commandments
 - b. Otherwise we're under the rest of it including the dietary laws
 - c. But God clearly said the law was only to serve as a tutor
 - d. Jesus completed the Law

5. Colossians 2:16

(16) Therefore do not let anyone judge you by what you eat or drink, or with regard to a religious festival, a New Moon celebration or a Sabbath day.”

G. The Lord's Day is special

1. Time to gather with other believers and worship Jesus
 - a. Reflect on our great salvation
 - b. Gather together
 - c. Give to the work
 - d. Encourage each other

2. Hebrews 10:24-25

(24) And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds. (25) Let us not give up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but let us encourage one another—and all the more as you see the Day approaching.

3. The importance of being here