

(13) Plucked Grain Sabbath Controversy (Matt. 12:1-8; Mk. 2:23-28; Lk. 6:1-5)

1. The location of the grain fields is not known, but the Lord and His disciples are apparently enroute back to Galilee (cf. Mk. 3:7).
2. The food monitors (Pharisees) observed the disciples' grain consumption, and filed an indictment against them (Matt. 12:2).
 - a. The Pharisees jumped on them as soon as they "began" to pick and eat.
 - b. The Pharisees declare the disciples' activity to be unlawful. Yet, it was perfectly lawful! (Deut. 23:25)
3. Jesus answered the Pharisees' question with a question of His own (Matt. 12:3; Mk. 2:25; Lk. 6:3).
4. The example of David was undeniable and to the Pharisees inexplicable (Matt. 12:3-4; Mk. 2:25-26; Lk. 6:3-4; cf. 1st Sam. 21:6 & Lev. 24:5-9).
5. The example of the temple priests is likewise definitive (Matt. 12:5-6).
6. The principle of grace is a defense against condemnation legalism (Matt. 12:7 cf. 9:13 & Hos. 6:6).
7. The priority of man over the Sabbath (Mk. 2:27) establishes that the Son of Man is Lord of the Sabbath (Mk. 2:28; Matt. 12:8; Lk. 6:5).

