



# **STORIES OF LIFE!**

**The Gospel of Luke**

## **A Story of Mercy**

**Luke 6:1-11**

**Message #1 of 50 – S794**

**Sermon given on June 3, 2018**



**Sunday Morning Service**

**Pastor Rick Lancaster**

# A Story of Mercy

***Luke 6:1-11***

## Opening Comments

- Turn to **Luke 6**
- We continue a study through the Gospel of Luke – **The Stories of Life**
- Let's pray and then jump right into the text
- **Pray**

## Teaching

- **A Story of Mercy**
- **Luke 6:1**
- The Sabbath, according to Jewish reckoning, the last day of the week – begins Friday at sunset and ends at sunset on Saturday
- It was established by God as a holy day of rest and worship
- Luke tells us it was the 'second Sabbath after the first' = the second Sabbath after the Passover
- The disciples are hungry and so they grab a handful of grain, rub it in their hands and eat it
- This doesn't go over well with the Pharisees
- **Luke 6:2**
- This actually was allowed in the Law **Deuteronomy 23:24-25**  
**When you come into your neighbor's vineyard, you may eat your fill of grapes at your pleasure, but you shall not put *any* in your container. When you come into your neighbor's standing grain, you may pluck the heads with your hand, but you shall not use a sickle on your neighbor's standing grain.**
- If you are walking along and get hungry, you were permitted to eat from any field you came across
- What the Pharisees are objecting to is that they are doing it on the Sabbath – the holy day of rest
- They had established a complicated set of rules about what was work and what was allowed on the Sabbath
- They considered that what the disciples had done was to reap and thresh the grain – neither was allowed according to their interpretation of the Sabbath command to rest

- Jesus had just taught that the new thing He was doing could not be contained in the rigid, unyielding ‘wineskin’ of religion or tradition
- I shared last week that was a problem for the Pharisees
- They were looking for the Messiah, but they expected Him to fit in their religion and follow their traditions
- Jesus is going to try to help them understand that it doesn’t work like that
- **Luke 6:3-4**
- Turn to **Matthew 12** for another account of this event
- Matthew shares an important part of what Jesus is trying to communicate
- Jesus asks them if they have ever read 1 Samuel 21
- David was running for his life from King Saul
- He and his men got hungry
- **Matthew 12:3-4**
- The ‘showbread’ were 12 loaves of bread placed in the Tabernacle on a gold table
- They represented the 12 tribes of Israel and symbolized God’s promise of provision, and of their dependence upon God
- Every week the showbread was replaced with 12 fresh loaves and the priests would eat the ones that were removed
- According to Jesus, David didn’t break the Law by eating that holy bread
- **Matthew 12:5**
- Every Sabbath priests go into the temple to ‘work’, but are blameless
- Jesus is saying there is a law that is higher than the Law of Moses
- And someone!
- **Matthew 12:6**
- To the Jews, the holiest place on earth was the temple in Jerusalem
- The Holy of Holies contained the Ark of the Covenant, which was covered by something that was referred to as the Mercy Seat
- Where on the Day of Atonement, once a year, the High Priest would go into the Holy of Holies and sprinkle the blood of an innocent, spotless sacrifice to obtain mercy for the nation

- ‘there is One greater than the temple’ – Jesus is claiming to be greater than the temple
- If they were paying attention they would recognize that He just claimed to be God
- Here’s the reason why I had you turn here
- **Matthew 12:7**
- Jesus quotes Hosea 6:6 and tells them that mercy is more important than their rules and regulations
- Keep your finger in Matthew and turn back to **Luke 6**
- **Harry Ironside**  
...man is more important in the eyes of God than any ritual observance.
- **J. Vernon McGee**  
His point was that the letter of the Law was not to be imposed when it wrought hardship upon one of God’s servants.
- Human need always trumps religious rules and regulations
- The disciples were hungry, and what they did by plucking and eating the grain did not break the Sabbath law established by God
- It broke the Pharisee’s rules but not God’s Law
- **Luke 6:5**
- ‘Son of Man’ was a term for the Messiah
- Jesus used this term 80 times to refer to Himself
- The Sabbath was a divine institution given to the Jews by God at Mount Sinai
- ‘Lord of the Sabbath’ = authority – again claiming His deity
- God, Father, Son, or Holy Spirit determines what is or is not allowed on the Sabbath – not human religion, rules, or traditions
- It had been 1,400 years since the Law was given by God to Moses
- In that time, God’s intention for the Law and for the Sabbath had not changed
- But man’s interpretation of God’s intent did – manifested in rules and traditions
- This is important  
**God cannot be compelled to restrict His actions based on man’s interpretation of God’s desires.**
- People still do this today – they interpret God’s desires and then expect God to act in a specific manner

- And when He doesn't, they become angry, or discouraged, or lose faith
- The problem is not with God – God is always faithful to Himself and His Word
- If you try to make God act the way you want Him to, you will be disappointed
- Luke shares a similar encounter between Jesus and the Pharisees
- **Luke 6:6-7**
- There is a sense that this whole scene has been staged by the scribes and Pharisees to test Jesus
- In their mind healing is work – shouldn't be done on the Sabbath
- **Luke 6:8-9**
- Turn back to **Matthew 12**
- Jesus senses what it is that they are trying to do
- Trying to trap Jesus is like Wile E. Coyote trying to catch the roadrunner – it never works, and you get blown up in the end
- **Matthew 12:11-12**
- He could have waited until the next day to heal this man and avoided this conflict
- Jesus is trying to see how hypocritical they are being
- If one of their animals needs rescuing, they would do it, even on the Sabbath
- Saying, this man's need is far more important than one of your animals
- Turn back to **Luke 6**
- Jesus puts the man in the center of the room so that everyone can see what He is about to do
- **Luke 6:10**
- In the gospel of **Mark 3:5**  
**And when He had looked around at them with anger, being grieved by the hardness of their hearts...**
- Here this poor man needs something that only Jesus can give him
- He is in bondage to his infirmity
- And they are using him as bait for a trap to catch Jesus breaking their rules and traditions

- Jesus does what they expected Him to do and heals the man and they lose it
- **Luke 6:11**
- Mark tells us that they were trying to figure out how to destroy Jesus
- The word ‘rage’ there has the idea of senselessness, folly, lack of understanding
- They lost their minds – this same rage seems to be far too common today

- Want to leave you with one thought today – God is merciful **Psalm 86:3-5**

**Be merciful to me, O Lord, for I cry to You all day long. Rejoice the soul of Your servant, for to You, O Lord, I lift up my soul. For You, Lord, are good, and ready to forgive, and abundant in mercy to all those who call upon You.**

- God is merciful – as His children, God calls us to be merciful
- The disciples were hungry, and God provided a way for them to meet that need

• The man with the withered hand needed to be healed, and God provided healing through Jesus **Warren Wiersbe** defines ministry: **Ministry takes place when divine resources meet human needs through loving channels to the glory of God.**

- We are merciful, we become those ‘loving channels’ when we seek to meet someone’s need, not because they deserve it, but simply because they need it
- I am being merciful when I give my wife the love and affection she needs
- It is mercy to feed the hungry
- We are agents of mercy when we support the helpless like the orphanage in Soe, Indonesia
- We are servants of mercy when we volunteer to serve in the church
- God is merciful – Let’s be merciful too **Proverbs 3:27-28**  
**Do not withhold good from those to whom it is due, when it is in the power of your hand to do so.**
- God showed you mercy – you thank Him by showing mercy to others
- Let’s be merciful!
- **Pray!**