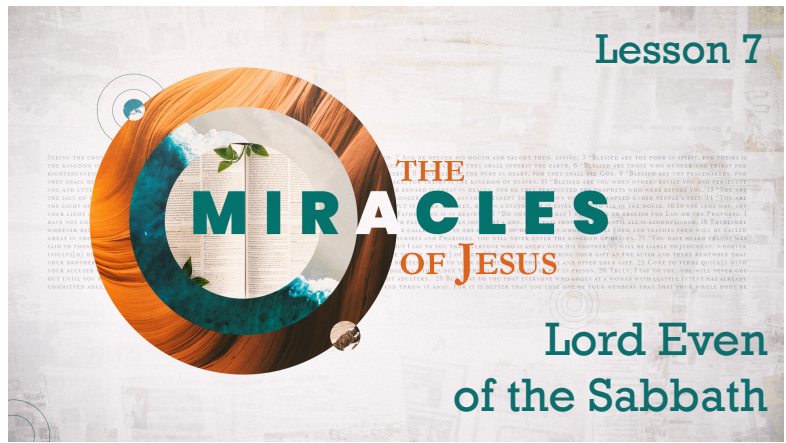


We've been learning throughout this study that the real point of the mighty works, wonders, and signs done by Jesus wasn't simply to put on a show. He worked these miracles so that people could **know** who he was, where he had come from, and why they ought to listen to him.



But what about in **Matthew 12** when there were serious questions about

the Sabbath day? The Sabbath stretches all the way back to **Exodus 20** when God was giving the Ten Commandments to the children of Israel:

“ _____ the Sabbath day, to keep it holy. Six days you shall labor, and do all your work, but the seventh day is a Sabbath to the LORD your God. On it you shall not do any _____, you, or your son, or your daughter, your male servant, or your female servant, or your livestock, or the sojourner who is within your gates. For in six days the LORD made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that is in them, and _____ on the seventh day. Therefore the LORD blessed the Sabbath day and made it holy.” (20:8-11)

In **Matthew 12**, Jesus and his disciples were passing through some grainfields on the Sabbath. When the Pharisees saw the disciples plucking heads of grain and eating them, they accused the disciples of “doing what is not lawful to do on the Sabbath” (12:1-2). Jesus challenges their understanding by asking questions from the Old Testament of his own (12:3-5) and making an incredible claim:

“I tell you, something _____ than the temple is here. And if you had known what this means, ‘I desire mercy, and not sacrifice,’ you would not have condemned the guiltless. For the Son of Man is _____ of the Sabbath.” (12:6-8)

But did Jesus **really** have the right to talk like that? This is what the miracle that Matthew documents next is really all about...

He went on from there and entered their synagogue. And a man was there with a withered hand. And they asked him, “Is it lawful to _____ on the Sabbath?”—so that they might accuse him. He said to them, “Which one of you who has a sheep, if it falls into a pit on the Sabbath, will not take hold of it and lift it out? Of how much more value is a man than a sheep! So it is _____ to do good on the Sabbath.” Then he said to the man, “Stretch out your hand.” And the man stretched it out, and it was restored, healthy like the other. But the Pharisees went out and conspired against him, how to destroy him. (12:9-14)

In fact, let's open our Bibles together back to **John 5** and be prepared to read **John 5:1-18** together as a class. On multiple occasions, Jesus revealed exactly who he was, where he had come from, and why everyone ought to listen to him. **So let's talk about it...**

For Class & Family Discussion:

- ▶ Thinking back to that great commandment in [Exodus 20:8-11](#), what was God communicating to the children of Israel? Why was the Sabbath important?

- ▶ By the time of Jesus, had some religious people gotten twisted and tangled up when it came to the Sabbath and what God expected? If so, in what ways? Jesus's words in [Mark 2:27](#) might be helpful here...

- ▶ What did Jesus mean in [Matthew 12:6-8](#)? If that was true...

- ▶ What do you think Jesus's big point was with his miracle in [Matthew 12:9-14](#)? If this was an important sign, what was it showing?

- ▶ And what about what we read together as a class from [John 5:1-18](#)? What was Jesus proving? What do these mighty works, wonders, and signs prove about his authority? What do they reveal about his heart?

- ▶ So why do you think we are told what we are in [John 5:16](#)?

- ▶ Don't just read over Jesus's answer in [John 5:17](#). What is he saying? Why is it really, really important?

- ▶ Let's end with John's sad summary in [John 5:18](#). What can we learn? What is this teaching us about Jesus? What is it teaching us about all who hear what he has taught?