

# LUKE - Part 23 – Lord of the Sabbath

<sup>1</sup> One Sabbath Jesus was going through the cornfields, and his disciples began to pick some ears of corn, rub them in their hands and eat the grain. <sup>2</sup> Some of the Pharisees asked, “Why are you doing what is unlawful on the Sabbath?”

<sup>3</sup> Jesus answered them, “Have you never read what David did when he and his companions were hungry? <sup>4</sup> He entered the house of God, and taking the consecrated bread, he ate what is lawful only for priests to eat. And he also gave some to his companions.” <sup>5</sup> Then Jesus said to them, “**The Son of Man is Lord of the Sabbath.**”

<sup>6</sup> On another Sabbath he went into the synagogue and was teaching, and a man was there whose right hand was shrivelled. <sup>7</sup> The Pharisees and the teachers of the law were looking for a reason to accuse Jesus, so they watched him closely to see if he would heal on the Sabbath. <sup>8</sup> But Jesus knew what they were thinking and said to the man with the shrivelled hand, “Get up and stand in front of everyone.” So he got up and stood there.

<sup>9</sup> Then Jesus said to them, “I ask you, which is lawful on the Sabbath: to do good or to do evil, to save life or to destroy it?”

<sup>10</sup> He looked round at them all, and then said to the man, “Stretch out your hand.” He did so, and his hand was completely restored. <sup>11</sup> But they were furious and began to discuss with one another what they might do to Jesus. - Luke 6:1-11

“If you can’t rest, if you can’t say no, if you are overcommitted, if you can’t switch off, if you are constantly feeling like you might disappoint someone, always feeling the pressure to perform, then you are a slave. You’re a slave to your own need to prove yourself, a slave to your own insecurities, a slave to your comfort levels, you might be a slave to your wife’s expectations, or a slave to your families expectations.”

“There has never been more psychological, social and emotional pressure to succeed in business, while deep on the inside, we have never been so unable to ‘afford’ to rest.” While this wrestle between work and rest has always been a problem, God has always had a solution. The sabbath, instituted by God, was always designed at its very core to deal with our deep seated need to prove ourselves to God & others, and to point us to the Lord of the Sabbath.

Our approach to work & sabbath speaks volumes about our walk with God & our identity:

1. Does your approach to work & rest resemble that of **a son or a slave**?
2. Are we allowing God to bring healing to our withered hands so that we can offer the **right hand of fellowship** to those around us?
3. Is our intimacy with Jesus transforming us, like John, from being a Son of Thunder into the **apostle of love**?

Jesus’ radical claim to be the Lord of the Sabbath is an invitation to a relationship with the power to transform our identities, allowing us to invite God into our work to change our wiring so that we see the evidence in our weeks:

**Work** - God help me to see where my approach to work is based off of a slave’s rather than a son’s mentality.

**Wiring** - God help us to see where we need our wiring to be adjusted. Where we need to tear down the idols of our culture of success.

**Week** - God please show us how to recreate and shape our weeks allowing us to find deep, refreshing times of restoration and intimacy with Jesus.