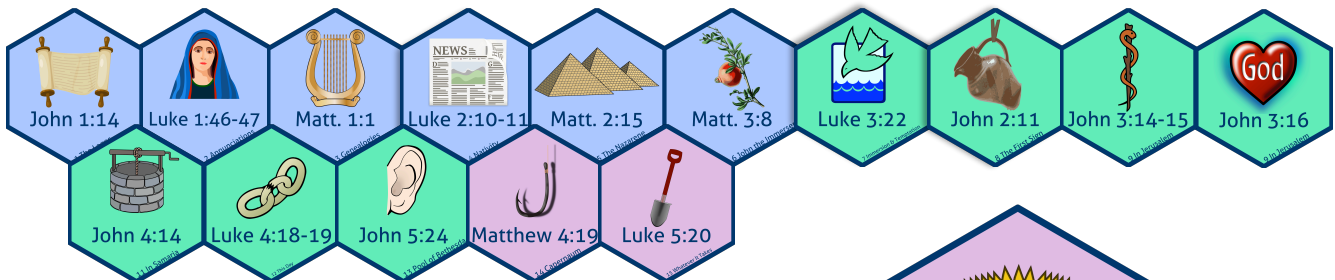




Our Discipleship Journey



<https://www.cbcbonham.org/discipleship>

The Shabbat Situation

- God instituted the Shabbat as a day to step back from our day-to-day lives and focus on Him.
- Breaking the Sabbath – **in the absence of a legal exception** - is a very serious sin; in extreme forms, it could carry the death penalty.
- Yet... the Gospels portray Jesus and the disciples as violating the Sabbath rules on multiple occasions.
- “Therefore some of the Pharisees were saying, ‘**This Man is not from God, because He does not keep the Sabbath.**’ But others were saying, ‘How can a man who is a **sinner** perform such signs?’ And there was dissension among them” (John 9:16).

The Shabbat Situation

- Some claim “grace did away with the law.”
 - **Grace is never a license to sin** (Romans 6:1-2)
- Accusing Jesus of this sin means, if true, He can’t be the Jewish Messiah and He can’t be our Savior (God forbid!).
- He IS from God. He IS sinless, He IS the Messiah. He IS our Savior.
- **Therefore, He MUST keep the Sabbath.**

“The reader of the Gospels needs to be aware that when a scholarly audience is specifically mentioned, it can be assumed that a **sophisticated scholarly exchange** is underway. When this assumption is made, new perceptions of Jesus and His message emerge.”

—Kenneth E. Bailey

The Jewish argument:

Kol V’Chomer - light to heavy - “how much more”

- From Luke 12:24: Your Heavenly Father feeds birds. You are more valuable than birds. **How much more** will the Heavenly Father feed you?
- From Matthew 7:11. You are evil, yet you give good gifts (and Your Father is not evil but good). **How much more** will your Father give good gifts?
- From Matthew 12:12: It’s ok to do good and rescue a sheep on a Sabbath. People are more valuable than sheep. **How much more** is it lawful to do good to people on a Sabbath?

Matthew 12:1 At that time, Jesus went through the grainfields on the Sabbath, and His disciples became hungry and began to pick the heads of grain and eat.	Luke 6:1 Now it happened that Jesus was passing through some grainfields on a Sabbath, and His disciples were picking the heads of grain, rubbing them in their hands , and eating them.	Ex 34:21 You shall work six days, but on the seventh day you shall rest; even during plowing time and harvest , you shall rest
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His disciples began to pluck heads of grain and to eat



Kernels of wheat in hand

Matthew 12:1

He entered into the house of God, and ate the showbread



Table of showbread in a tabernacle model

Matthew 12:4

The Jewish argument: Kol V'Chomer - light to heavy - "how much more"

- *David and the Bread of Presence*: Compassion/human need (A) > temple service (B)
- *Priests work on Shabbat*: Temple service (B) > Shabbat prohibitions (C)
- *THEN* Compassion/human need (A) > Shabbat Prohibitions (C)
- *Something/Someone is here* > Temple = Since the Temple is above the Shabbat prohibitions, HOW MUCH MORE does the hunger of the Son of Man's disciples justify the exception of harvesting on Shabbat?

Matthew 12:8

“For the Son of Man is Lord of the Sabbath.”

Mark 2:27

Jesus said to them, “The Sabbath was made for man, and not man for the Sabbath.

“So the Son of Man is Lord, even of the Sabbath.”

Memory Verse



“Shabbat was made for man, and not man for Shabbat.”

And going on from there (on another Sabbath), He entered their synagogue



Ancient synagogue reconstructed at Yad HaShmonah

Matthew 12:9

HOW MUCH MORE is a person valuable than a sheep!



Shepherd with sheep in eastern Samaria

Matthew 12:12

Walking In His Dust

Talmidim prioritize COMPASSION



James 4:17

“So for one who knows the RIGHT THING to do and does not do it, for him it is SIN.”

Conclusion

- Jesus is not overturning the Sabbath, but “He demands instead a different way to understand and apply it.” —Craig Keener
- “If, because of the Sabbath, you restrain your foot From doing as you wish on My holy day, **And call the Sabbath a pleasure, and the holy day of the LORD honorable,** And honor it, desisting from your own ways, From seeking your own pleasure And speaking your own word,
- **Then you will take delight in the LORD,** And I will make you ride on the heights of the earth; And I will feed you with the heritage of Jacob your father, For the mouth of the LORD has spoken” (Isaiah 58:13-14).



Shabbat