



Perfecting Witness:
Salt and Light Encounters
Mercy & Motive

Come unto me, all *ye* that labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.
Matt 11:28-30 KJV

Is there ever a WRONG time to be the light or for someone to be healed?

Introduction: What is the Sabbath?

1. God rested on the seventh day *Gen 2:2*
2. Israel commanded to observe *Exo 20:8-11*
Halakha: Talmudic and rabbinic law and traditions
3. It was a ceremonial law while the others were moral
4. The command was never intended to apply to:
The service of God *Matt 12:5*; Deeds of necessity *Matt 12:3-4*; Deeds of mercy *Matt 12: 11-12*
5. Sunday **IS NOT** the Christian Sabbath
6. The real 'rest' *Matt 11:28-30* This Greek word for rest was the word used to translate 'Sabbath' in the Septuagint (Greek version of Heb OT.)
7. The believer's Sabbath rest *Heb 4:1-10*

A. Mercy: The Lord of the Sabbath 12:1-8

1. The setting: Lawful or sinful? :1-2
2. The house of God and the Sabbath
 - a. The example of David :3-4; *1 Sam 21:1-8*
The Lord was willing for a ceremonial regulation to be violated when doing so was necessary to meet the needs of His servants.
 - b. Example of the priests :5 Priests were exempt
 - c. Example of the temple :6 The only one greater than the temple was God Himself.
3. God's desire: MERCY :7
 - a. Sabbath observance was never meant to restrict acts of mercy. *Hosea 6:6*
 - b. Sacrifice was symbolic and a means of pointing to God's future provision—the Messiah.
4. Lord of the Sabbath :8 Jesus stood before the Pharisees and claimed He was greater than God's temple and God's Sabbath. He was God whom the Temple honored and the Sabbath served.

B. Motive: The Work of the Sabbath :9-13

1. Jesus 'rest' is **NOT** a 'rest' from work, but in the good work of the Kingdom. :12
2. The Pharisees placed their laws above human need.

God never expects more of us than He gives us the power to do!

Matthew 12:1-14

Mercy: The Lord of the Sabbath

:1 At that time Jesus went through the grainfields on the Sabbath. And His disciples were hungry, and began to pluck heads of grain and to eat.

:2 And when the Pharisees saw *it*, they said to Him, "Look, Your disciples are doing what is not lawful to do on the Sabbath!"

:3 But He said to them, "Have you not read what David did when he was hungry, he and those who were with him:

:4 how he entered the house of God and ate the showbread which was not lawful for him to eat, nor for those who were with him, but only for the priests?

:5 Or have you not read in the law that on the Sabbath the priests in the temple profane the Sabbath, and are blameless?

:6 Yet I say to you that in this place there is One greater than the temple.

:7 But if you had known what *this* means, 'I DESIRE MERCY AND NOT SACRIFICE,' you would not have condemned the guiltless.

:8 "For the Son of Man is Lord even of the Sabbath."

Motive: The Work of the Sabbath

:9 Now when He had departed from there, He went into their synagogue.

:10 And behold, there was a man who had a withered hand. And they asked Him, saying, "Is it lawful to heal on the Sabbath?"—that they might accuse Him.

:11 Then He said to them, "What man is there among you who has one sheep, and if it falls into a pit on the Sabbath, will not lay hold of it and lift *it* out?"

:12 Of how much more value then is a man than a sheep? Therefore it is lawful to do good on the Sabbath."

:13 Then He said to the man, "Stretch out your hand." And he stretched *it* out, and it was restored as whole as the other.

:14 Then the Pharisees went out and plotted against Him, how they might destroy Him.