**Pastor Berry Ross September 3, 2023**

**Jesus Reigns Over The Sabbath**

**Matthew 12:1-14**

**Key Truth:** The observance of the Sabbath has always been viewed with controversy. Yet, Jesus makes it abundantly clear the true meaning and intent of the Sabbath observance.

**God’s Original Intent of the Sabbath:**

God intended the Sabbath as a day to bless and benefit humanity both physically and spiritually. Genesis 2:1-3,

Exodus 20:8-11

1. The Pharisees’ First Sabbath challenge: Matthew 12:2

 A. Jesus’s disciples were condemned for threshing wheat on

 the Sabbath.

2. The Pharisees’ Second Sabbath Challenge: Matthew 12:10

 A. Jesus heals a man with a withered hand on the Sabbath.

 B. The Pharisees minimized the man’s condition.

 1. The Pharisees made it more about the traditional

 observance of the Sabbath than the condition of the

 man.

3. Jesus offers a Biblical response to the Pharisees.

 A. Jesus used Old Testament examples to enlighten the

 Pharisees understanding of the Sabbath.

 1. David eats consecrated bread. 1 Samuel 21:1-7; 22:9-23

 2. Priests had to work on the Sabbath. Numbers 28:9-10

 B. Jesus declares He is the Lord of the Sabbath. Matthew 12:8

 C. Jesus declares mercy is desired over sacrifice. Hosea 6:6

**Taking It Beyond The Walls:** Pray for and walk in the same love and compassion as Jesus did for others. Remember, when the love of God comes into conflict with whatever you face, always choose the love of God.

**Food For Thought:**

Read Matthew 12:1-8: Do you practice the Sabbath regularly?

If so, describe why and the difference it makes in your life.

Do you find it difficult to rest? If so, why?

How do people today use religious practices to excuse themselves from helping others?

What are some ways we can practice the discipline of Sabbath without letting it become legalistic?

In what ways do attitudes of pride and self-interest hurt Christians’ testimonies? How does focusing on tradition lead to these attitudes?