



NOTES FOR FURTHER STUDY

Supplemental Texts

Ex 20:9-11; 23:5; Due 5:12-15; 22:4; Matt 12:1-14;
22:34-36; Mk 3:1-6; Lk 6:1-11; 13:10-17; 7:36; 11:37;
Rom 9:20; Col 2:13-17

Study Summary

Jesus is invited over to a Pharisees house to dine on the Sabbath when He encounters a man suffering from abnormal swelling. Under the watchful eyes of His opponents, Jesus heals the man and challenges the Pharisees and teachers of the law on their observance of the Sabbath, pointing out their self-righteousness and hypocrisy.

Historical & Theological Background

Sabbath: was a commanded day of rest (Ex. 20:8-11) meant to reflect our dependence on God and to rejoice in His salvific work. "All four Gospels make it clear that a chief point in the conflict between Jesus and the Jewish authorities concerned the right way to keep the Sabbath. The Jews took the Sabbath seriously" and "the rules for keeping it were certainly elaborate and repressive" as more stringent laws were added in an attempt to keep people from breaking the Sabbath. Jesus "did not simply argue that" "regulations should be relaxed and a more liberal attitude adopted; He said that His opponents had missed the whole point of this holy day." Going back to the focal points of Sabbath observance, Jesus fulfills its purpose in restoring creation and bringing life and healing. Jesus shows Himself to be "the Lord of the Sabbath" (Matt. 12:8) as He points to its deeper meaning and in His death and resurrection becomes our ultimate Sabbath rest.

Pharisees: were "members of a Jewish party that exercised strict piety according to Mosaic law." They "were a sect within early Judaism, becoming active around 150 BC and enduring as a distinct party until" "around AD 135." "The Pharisees were concerned above all with the sanctification of God's Name" "and with the separation from all that was unholy. Their name also alludes to this emphasis (Φαρισαῖοι and *p'arūšim* refer to 'separated ones')." They were "a movement concerned with the sanctification of every aspect of one's life. To this end they" added their own laws "as a fence around the written Torah in order to" keep people from breaking God's Law "and also to give the average person access to salvation." They "were not numerous," but "were very influential" and "were the unofficial religious leaders of" Jesus' time, some of whom "spearheaded the opposition to Jesus."

DISCUSSION PRIMER

Take some time this week to read Luke 14:1-6 slowly and prayerfully. Ask yourself these questions: do I find my rest in Christ? Where is hypocrisy evident in my life? How might the gospel help me fight against it?

TEXTUAL INVESTIGATION

LUKE 14:1-6

Big Idea: Jesus Gives Us the Rest We Need

Fallen Condition Focus: Self-Righteousness, Pride, and Hypocrisy

- When else has Jesus eaten at a Pharisees house? What happened on those occasions (1)? (See Lk 7:36 and 11:37)
What does it mean that Jesus was being watch closely (2)? (See Lk 6:6-7)
- Why did Jesus and the Pharisees have a different interpretation of the Sabbath (3-4)? (See Ex 20:8-11; Due 5:12-15 & HTB)
- Why do the teachers of the law and the Pharisees fail to answer Jesus' question (5-6)? (See Lk 13:14-17)
- **Gospel Connection:** Read Col 2:13-17. How is Christ the fulfillment of the Sabbath?

TEXTUAL INTERSECTION: How does the text intersect with our lives?

- What is our cultures understanding of work and rest? How is the picture given in Scripture different?
- What are two different but distinct ways to reject God? How is one of those ways evident in this text and in the world around us today?
- What are the dangers of pride and how can the practice of Sabbath help us work against pride? Do you practice the Sabbath? Why or why not?
- How has Jesus brought a greater and deeper peace and rest into your life?
- What might it look like for you to invite others into the deep rest that Jesus provides?

REPLICABLE QUESTIONS

Read Luke 14:1-6 and explore together what the passage reveals about:

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| 1) The character and purposes of God? | 4) Our identity in Christ? |
| 2) The fallen human condition? | 5) Our obedience to Christ? |
| 3) The gospel of Jesus Christ? | 6) Our relationship to others |

TEXTUAL APPLICATION: "So, what now?"

Have each participant identify a personal take-away in light of this study. Is there . . .

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| • a command to obey? | • a beauty to behold? | • a mission to fulfill? |
| • a promise to claim? | • a truth to believe? | • an example to follow? |
| • a sin to repent of? | • a service to render? | • a person to tell? |