

Abide in Me

Mentored by the Master
Discipleship in Real Time



Volume 10 - Number 25

The Week of May 18, 2025

Come and Follow
The New Kingdom Order
Luke 6:1-16

In three connected episodes, Jesus redefines expectations, reorders priorities, and chooses the twelve Apostles. The first two episodes involve a Sabbath controversy. In the first instance, the Pharisees confront Jesus and His disciples for what they consider unlawful actions—plucking grain and threshing it by rubbing it in their hands. Jesus appeals to Scripture and asserts a stunning claim: “The Son of Man is Lord of the Sabbath.” He not only interprets the law—He embodies and fulfills it.

Next, Jesus enters the synagogue and restores a man’s withered hand on another Sabbath day—not in private, but in front of His enemies. The miracle is not merely a healing. It's a challenge to hardened hearts. Instead of marvel and awe, the religious leaders are “filled with fury.”

In the third episode, Jesus retreats to a mountain to pray and calls twelve men to be His apostles. He forms His core team from fishermen, tax collectors, and zealots. He calls the least likely to lead.

OBSERVATION *(What does the passage say and how does it say it?)*

Before your group meets, read the passage and perform the following prompts:

- Circle all the references to the *Sabbath*.
- Underline the issues of “lawfulness” as related to the Sabbath in vss. 2, 4, and 9.
- In the left margin of verses 3-4 write, 1 Samuel 21:1-6.
- Double underline Jesus’ declaration of authority in v. 5.
- Place in brackets the motives/emotions/reactions of the Pharisees.
- Place a square around all the verbs describing Jesus’ actions before and during His selection of the Twelve.
- In the left margin on verses 14-16 list a variety of words to describe the makeup of the apostles.

¹ On a Sabbath, while he was going through the grainfields, his disciples plucked and ate some heads of grain, rubbing them in their hands. ² But some of the Pharisees said, “Why are you doing what is not lawful to do on the Sabbath?” ³ And Jesus answered 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 took and ate the bread of the Presence, which is not lawful for any but the priests to eat, and also gave it to those with him?” ⁵ And he said to them, “The Son of Man is lord of the Sabbath.”

⁶ On another Sabbath, he entered the synagogue and was teaching, and a man was there whose right hand was withered. ⁷ And the scribes and the Pharisees watched him, to see whether he would heal on the Sabbath, so that they might find a reason to accuse him.

⁸ But he knew their thoughts, and he said to the man with the withered hand, “Come and stand here.” And he rose and stood there. ⁹ And Jesus said to them, “I ask you, is it lawful on the Sabbath to do good or to do harm, to save life or to destroy it?” ¹⁰ And after

looking around at them all he said to him, “Stretch out your hand.” And he did so, and his hand was restored. ¹¹ But they were filled with fury and discussed with one another what they might do to Jesus.

¹² In these days he went out to the mountain to pray, and all night he continued in prayer to God. ¹³ And when day came, he called his disciples and chose from them twelve, whom he named apostles: ¹⁴ Simon, whom he named Peter, and Andrew his brother, and James and John, and Philip, and Bartholomew, ¹⁵ and Matthew, and Thomas, and James the son of Alphaeus, and Simon who was called the Zealot, ¹⁶ and Judas the son of James, and Judas Iscariot, who became a traitor.

INTERPRETATION *(What does the passage mean?)*

1. Why were the Pharisees so concerned about the disciples’ actions on the Sabbath?

2. What is the significance of Jesus referring to David and the showbread? (See 1 Samuel 21:1-6)

3. How does Jesus' statement in verse 5 clarify His identity?

4. Why does Jesus choose to heal the man in the synagogue publicly? What does Jesus’ question in verse 9 reveal about His understanding of the Sabbath?

5. Why were the Pharisees “filled with fury” (v.11) instead of being amazed? What does their furious madness suggest?

6. Why is it important that Jesus prayed all night before choosing the Twelve?

APPLICATION *(How does the passage apply to our lives?)*

1. In what ways are we tempted to value religious performance over compassion?
2. How can you practice mercy this week instead of judgment?
3. What Sabbath practices help you rest in God's provision and authority?
4. How might God be calling you to obey Him even when others criticize?
5. What does the choosing of people like Matthew (a tax collector) and Simon (a zealot) indicate about Jesus' vision and values? How does this encourage you to believe Jesus can use someone like you for His mission and purpose?

Luke 6:1-16

Lined area for sermon notes.