

**The Pharisees question Jesus.**  
Matthew 12:1-14; Mark 2:23—3:6; Luke 6:1-11



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When Jesus lived on Earth, the Pharisees were the religious leaders. They tried to be sure that everyone followed God's rules. They even made up more rules of their own. They said that obeying these rules was the only way to show love for God. But Jesus said that what God most wanted was for people to love God and love each other.

One of the Pharisees' rules was that a person could not do any work on the seventh day of the week. The seventh day was called the Sabbath. One Sabbath, Jesus and his friends were walking along a road where grain was growing. Jesus' friends picked some grain and ate it.

The Pharisees saw Jesus' friends pick the grain! The Pharisees thought that picking grain was

work. They asked Jesus why He didn't stop His friends from picking grain. Jesus reminded the Pharisees that God was not angry with people who worked to get food when they were hungry.

Later on the Sabbath, Jesus saw a man whose hand was crippled. The Pharisees thought that Jesus should not help the man. Making his hand well was work! But Jesus knew how important it was to show love and help someone in need. Jesus made the crippled man's hand well! The man must have been glad and thankful!

Jesus wanted everyone to know that caring for people's needs was one of the best ways to show love for God.