

# S.O.H.L.

## WEEKLY MINISTRY MEDITATIONS

*Pronounced "Soul"*

May 30, 2016

## Unhealthy Traditions (Pt. 2 of 2)

**MATTHEW 12:1-8 NKJV** – (1) At that time Jesus went through the grain fields 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."

**Jesus answered the Pharisees in four ways:** Verses 3-4 He reminded the Pharisees about King David. He and his men had eaten the bread that only the priests should eat (1 Samuel 21:1-6). This was special bread. It was a sign that God provided food. Because David and his men were hungry, they needed to eat the bread. So the priest allowed them to break the law. In verses 5-6, the priests had to work in the Temple, even on God's rest day. The Law did not allow an ordinary person to light a fire on that day. But the priests could light the fire on the altar to burn the animals. That was part of the ceremony as they worshipped God in the Temple. Jesus said that He Himself was greater than the Temple.

In verse 7, Jesus used God's words to his servant, Hosea, long ago (Hosea 6:6). 'I want you to be kind. I want this more than your presents.' The Pharisees did not understand what God meant and were wrong to blame the disciples. The Pharisees should have understood that the disciples needed food. This was more important than the rules. In verse 8, Mark 2:27 reads that 'God made His rest day for man. God did not make man for His rest day.' God told people to rest on His rest day. But God does not want to control people's freedom. Instead, He wants to help people. 'Son of Man' is another name for 'the \*Messiah', and Jesus is the \*Messiah. So Jesus had the right to decide what should happen on God's rest day.

### SCRIPTURE READING

1 CORINTHIANS 2:5

### THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK

We make rules (LAW). God makes provisions (GRACE).