

Does Mercy Supersede Law?

Matthew 12:1-12

1. In **Matthew 12:1–2**, what accusation did the Pharisees make against the disciples, and why did Jesus say they were actually **guiltless**?
2. What Old Testament passage shows that the disciples' action of plucking grain was **permitted under the Law of Moses**?
3. In **Matthew 12:3–4**, why did Jesus bring up **David eating the showbread**, and what inconsistency in the Pharisees did this expose?
4. According to **Matthew 12:5**, why were the priests considered **blameless** even though they performed "work" on the Sabbath?
5. When Jesus said, "**It is lawful to do good**" (**Matt. 12:12**), what point was He making about the relationship between **mercy and God's law**?

REFLECTION QUESTION: When deciding what is right or good, do we ask first, "Is it lawful according to God's will?" or do we tend to rely on what feels compassionate or reasonable to us?

THOUGHT QUESTION: When people say, "*God is merciful, so He understands,*" are they describing biblical mercy, or are they sometimes redefining mercy to excuse disobedience? (*Colossians 3:17*)