(13) Plucked Grain Sabbath Controversy (Matt. 12:1-8; Mk. 2:23-28; Lk. 6:1-5)

1. The location of the grain fields is not known, but the Lord and His disciples are apparently enroute back to Galilee (cf. Mk. 3:7).

2. The food monitors (Pharisees) observed the disciples’ grain consumption, and filed an indictment against them (Matt. 12:2).
   a. The Pharisees jumped on them as soon as they “began” to pick and eat.
   b. The Pharisees declare the disciples’ activity to be unlawful. Yet, it was perfectly lawful! (Deut. 23:25)

3. Jesus answered the Pharisees’ question with a question of His own (Matt. 12:3; Mk. 2:25; Lk. 6:3).

4. The example of David was undeniable and to the Pharisees inexplicable (Matt. 12:3-4; Mk. 2:25-26; Lk. 6:3-4; cf. 1st Sam. 21:6 & Lev. 24:5-9).

5. The example of the temple priests is likewise definitive (Matt. 12:5-6).

6. The principle of grace is a defense against condemnation legalism (Matt. 12:7 cf. 9:13 & Hos. 6:6).

7. The priority of man over the Sabbath (Mk. 2:27) establishes that the Son of Man is Lord of the Sabbath (Mk. 2:28; Matt. 12:8; Lk. 6:5).