

**Catching Up With The Radical Rabbi Sermon Series**  
**"...Who Broke the Rules"**  
**by Rev. John C. Tittle**

**Gospel Reading:** Luke 6:1-11 NRSV

<sup>1</sup>One sabbath while Jesus was going through the grain fields, his disciples plucked some heads of grain, rubbed them in their hands, and ate them. <sup>2</sup>But some of the Pharisees said, "Why are you doing what is not lawful on the sabbath?" <sup>3</sup>Jesus answered, "Have you not read what David did when he and his companions were hungry?" <sup>4</sup>He entered the house of God and took and ate the bread of the Presence, which it is not lawful for any but the priests to eat, and gave some to his companions?" <sup>5</sup>Then he said to them, "The Son of Man is lord of the sabbath." <sup>6</sup>On another sabbath he entered the synagogue and taught, and there was a man there whose right hand was withered. <sup>7</sup>The scribes and the Pharisees watched him to see whether he would cure on the sabbath, so that they might find an accusation against him. <sup>8</sup>Even though he knew what they were thinking, he said to the man who had the withered hand, "Come and stand here." He got up and stood there. <sup>9</sup>Then Jesus said to them, "I ask you, is it lawful to do good or to do harm on the sabbath, to save life or to destroy it?" <sup>10</sup>After looking around at all of them, he said to him, "Stretch out your hand." He did so, and his hand was restored. <sup>11</sup>But they were filled with fury and discussed with one another what they might do to Jesus.

**Discussion Questions:**

1. What jumps out at you in this passage?
2. What command in Scripture to find the most unusual or confusing?
3. What do we human beings love about the rules? What do we hate about rules?
4. Why did Jesus break the human rules and expectations for the sabbath?
5. Is it ever OK for Christians to break the rules? When?
6. How can we get past legalism and follow the spirit of the law without becoming lawless?
7. What do you think of this statement: *Jesus was doing good and healing on the Sabbath. The Pharisees were plotting evil to destroy Jesus on the Sabbath. It was the Pharisees, not Jesus who were the real Sabbath-breakers.*
8. What are your impressions of this statement: *to refuse to do good is to harm others because their suffering remains because of our inaction.*
9. And finally this statement: *Don't forget that Jesus is not only Lord of the Sabbath, He's Lord of all. He's Lord of your politics. Lord of your philosophy. Lord of the church. Anything above Christ or untouched by Christ in our lives is an idol.*