**Bible Study Luke 6v1 – 16 by Robert Lovatt. St. Margaret’s 26th March 2023**

Jesus refers in this passage to the story of David seeking bread from Abiathar (Mk 2v26) or Ahimelech who was a priest at Nob a little to the North East of Jerusalem (2 miles). Remember this was at a time before the Temple was built and when the Canaanites (Jebusites) were still in control of Jerusalem. Ahimelech makes the judgment to allow David and his companions the consecrated bread because of their need due to David’s flight from Saul.

The primary focus of this passage are the differing reactions to Jesus.

1. What place do rules have in your life? Are there any rules you are expected to follow (at church, work, parent’s home etc.) that you think are unnecessary?
2. How would you approach a situation where you were expected to follow a rule you thought was superfluous? How do/would you relate to a family member who thought rules you wanted were superfluous?

**Eating Corn on the Sabbath**

1. Rubbing the heads of grain was counted as work and hence violated the Rabbinical rules concerning the Sabbath. Eating the grain itself was acceptable. Why do you think Jesus was less than sympathetic to the Pharisees complaint?
2. What was the motivation of the Pharisees to challenge Jesus? Are there any parallels in our lives?
3. How does Jesus justify the action of his disciples? When Jesus refers to himself as the ‘Son of Man’ what is the significance of this title? (See Daniel 7v13 for example)
4. Surely the Sabbath laws, as defined by the Pharisees, were binding for Jesus; so, if this were the case what does Jesus mean by describing himself as being ‘The Lord of the Sabbath’? Does this Lordship point to a general principle that applies to Jesus?

**Healing on the Sabbath**

1. There are some interesting expressions (v. 7) describing the scrutiny directed towards Jesus by the Pharisees. Why were they so bothered? Why was Jesus such a threat?
2. Jesus articulates the heart of the issue in v.9. How does his response address the complaints of the Pharisees? Where do grace and law fit in?

**The Sabbath and us**

1. Given Jesus’ response to complaints about the lack of his observance of the Sabbath, does this mean we can treat the Sabbath and the 4th commandment with a light touch?
2. If you were discipling a group of teenagers about the Sabbath, what would you advocate in practical terms?

**The 12 apostles**

1. Jesus didn’t recruit from the Pharisees and Teachers of the Law. What according to the passage controlled the way Jesus chose the 12?
2. From what you know about them how were they different?
3. What would be the task expected of the apostles and why would the Pharisees be unsuitable for such a task?