



# Daily Reflections

**July 20, 2018**

---

## Scripture

### **Matthew 12: 1-12**

Jesus was going through a field of grain on the sabbath.  
His disciples were hungry  
and began to pick the heads of grain and eat them.  
When the Pharisees saw this, they said to him,  
"See, your disciples are doing what is unlawful to do on the sabbath."  
He said to the them, "Have you not read what David did  
when he and his companions were hungry,  
how he went into the house of God and ate the bread of offering,  
which neither he nor his companions  
but only the priests could lawfully eat?  
Or have you not read in the law that on the sabbath  
the priests serving in the temple violate the sabbath  
and are innocent?  
I say to you, something greater than the temple is here.  
If you knew what this meant, I desire mercy, not sacrifice,  
you would not have condemned these innocent men.  
For the Son of Man is Lord of the sabbath."

---

## Our Scripture Reflection

The criticism of Jesus by the Pharisees is based on what Jesus would publicly call one day, "The hypocrisy of the Pharisees." Behind their criticism was the

very narrow and strict interpretation of the Law against work on the Sabbath. For Jesus, feeding hungry men was a work of mercy that was to be carried out on any day, especially the Sabbath. On what authority could He do and say such a thing? He was, is and always will be the Lord of all, including the sabbath.

---

## **Food for your Journey**

Some of mankind's greatest contributions have come from people who decided that no sacrifice was too large and no effort too great to accomplish what they set out to do. Edward Gibbon spent 26 years writing *The History of the Decline and Fall of the Roman Empire*. Noah Webster worked diligently for 36 years to bring into print the first edition of his dictionary. It is said that the Roman orator Cicero practiced before friends every day for 30 years in order to perfect his public speaking. What stamina! What persistence!

Now think about how much energy we put into the Lord's work. The comparison can be rather embarrassing. And it should lead us to ask ourselves some heart-searching questions: Why is our service for Christ sometimes performed in a halfhearted manner? Why do other things always come before our time with the Lord? Why do we prepare more diligently for our responsibilities in the world than we do our responsibilities in the church?

—Bruce Goettsche, *JOY: Finding It, Keeping It* (Xulon Press, 2003), 133-134.

---

## **A Prayer from the Heart**

Lord Jesus, You always showed mercy to those who were in need and taught Your disciples to do likewise. Out of love for You, may I always be quick to respond to the needs of others, especially the least in Your Kingdom. Amen