

An aerial view of Prague, Czech Republic, during sunset. The Vltava River flows through the city, with the Charles Bridge in the foreground. The city is filled with historic buildings, including a prominent church with a green dome. The sky is filled with soft, golden light from the setting sun.

WELCOME
to the International Baptist Church
of Prague

SUNDAY 17 MARCH

A scenic landscape featuring a range of snow-capped mountains in the background, a dense forest of evergreen trees in the middle ground, and a calm lake in the foreground that perfectly reflects the mountains and trees. The sky is a clear, bright blue. Overlaid on the center of the image is the word "SERMON" in large, bold, yellow capital letters.

SERMON



THE GOSPEL  ACCORDING TO
MATTHEW
JESUS, LORD OF HEAVEN AND EARTH

MATTHEW 12:1-21

“Jesus is Lord”

Jesus is Lord

¹ At that time Jesus went through the cornfields on the Sabbath. His disciples were hungry and began to pick some ears of corn and eat them.

² When the Pharisees saw this, they said to him, 'Look! Your disciples are doing what is unlawful on the Sabbath.'

³ He answered, 'Haven't you read what David did when he and his companions were hungry? ⁴ He entered the house of God, and he and his companions ate the consecrated bread – which was not lawful for them to do, but only for the priests.'

Jesus is Lord

⁵ ‘Or haven’t you read in the Law that the priests on Sabbath duty in the temple desecrate the Sabbath and yet are innocent?’

⁶ I tell you that something greater than the temple is here. ⁷ If you had known what these words mean, “I desire mercy, not sacrifice,” you would not have condemned the innocent.

⁸ For the Son of Man is Lord of the Sabbath.’

Jesus is Lord

⁹Going on from that place, he went into their synagogue, ¹⁰ and a man with a shrivelled hand was there. Looking for a reason to bring charges against Jesus, they asked him, 'Is it lawful to heal on the Sabbath?'

¹¹ He said to them, 'If any of you has a sheep and it falls into a pit on the Sabbath, will you not take hold of it and lift it out?'

¹² 'How much more valuable is a person than a sheep! Therefore it is lawful to do good on the Sabbath.'

¹³ Then he said to the man, 'Stretch out your hand.' So he stretched it out and it was completely restored, just as sound as the other.

Jesus is Lord

¹⁴ But the Pharisees went out and plotted how they might kill Jesus.

¹⁵ Aware of this, Jesus withdrew from that place. A large crowd followed him, and he healed all who were ill.

¹⁶ He warned them not to tell others about him.

¹⁷ This was to fulfil what was spoken through the prophet Isaiah:

Jesus is Lord

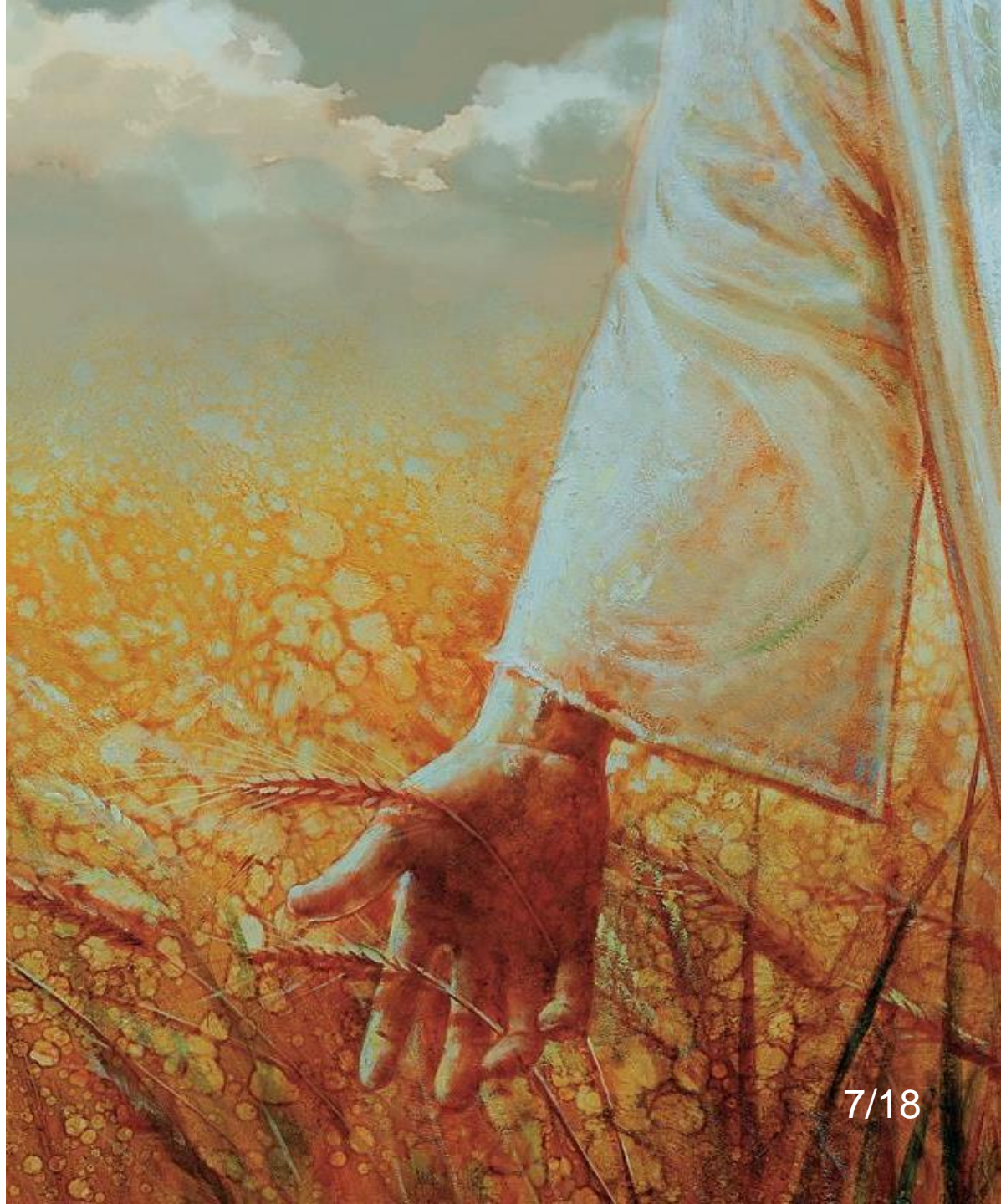
¹⁸ 'Here is my servant whom I have chosen,
the one I love, in whom I delight;
I will put my Spirit on him,
and he will proclaim justice to the nations.

¹⁹ He will not quarrel or cry out;
no one will hear his voice in the streets.

²⁰ A bruised reed he will not break,
and a smouldering wick he will not snuff out,
till he has brought justice through to victory.

²¹ In his name the nations will put their hope.'

At that time
Jesus went
through the
grainfields on
the Sabbath. His
disciples were
hungry and
began to pick
some heads of
grain and eat
them.



1. Hungry Disciples

“Look! Your disciples are doing what is unlawful on the Sabbath.”

What Jewish law(s) did they break?

Remember the Sabbath day by keeping it holy. ⁹ Six days you shall labour and do all your work, ¹⁰ but the seventh day is a sabbath to the Lord your God. On it you shall not do any work, neither you, nor your son or daughter, nor your male or female servant, nor your animals, nor any foreigner residing in your towns. ¹¹ For in six days the Lord made the heavens and the earth, the sea, and all that is in them, but he rested on the seventh day. Therefore the Lord blessed the Sabbath day and made it holy. – *Exodus 20:8-11*

As based on the Mishnah Tractate
Shabbat 7:2, the 39 activities are:

Sowing, plowing, reaping, binding sheaves, threshing, winnowing, sorting, grinding, sifting, kneading, baking, shearing wool, whitening it, combing it, dyeing it, spinning, weaving, making two loops, weaving two threads, separating two threads, tying [a knot], untying [a knot], sewing two stitches, tearing for the purpose of sewing two stitches, hunting a deer, slaughtering it, skinning it, salting it, curing its hide, scraping it, cutting it, writing two letters, erasing for the purpose of writing two letters, **building, demolishing, extinguishing a flame, lighting a flame, striking with a hammer, carrying from one domain to another.**

What can we learn from the examples Jesus gives about King David and the Priests?

1 Samuel 21: 1-6

- The king sent me on a mission.
- Give me five loaves of bread.
- Only consecrated bread available.
- The men are holy.

Numbers 28:9

On the Sabbath day, make an offering of two lambs a year old without defect, together with its drink offering and a grain offering of two-tenths of an ephah of the finest flour mixed with olive oil.

Hosea 6:6

For I desire mercy, not sacrifice,
and acknowledgment of God rather
than burnt offerings.

Matthew 12:8

“For the Son of Man is Lord of the Sabbath”

2. Healing on the Sabbath – Matthew 12:9-13

What can you do on the Sabbath?

Do Good!

Healing on the Sabbath – Matthew 12:9-13

What is the value of a person?

Worth more than sheep (Matt 12:11)

Worth more than many sparrows (Matt 10:31)

Jesus Christ laid down his life for us (1 John 3:16b)

3. Hear the words of the Prophet

¹⁵ Aware of this, Jesus withdrew from that place. A large crowd followed him, and he healed all who were ill.

¹⁶ He warned them not to tell others about him.

Why does Jesus not draw attention to himself?

Hear the words of the Prophet

¹⁸ 'Here is my servant whom I have chosen,
the one I love, in whom I delight;
I will put my Spirit on him,
and he will proclaim justice to the nations.

¹⁹ He will not quarrel or cry out;
no one will hear his voice in the streets.

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(paraphrase of Isaiah 42:1-4)

In whom is your hope?

To
God
be the Glory!