

Unwise Abuses of the Sabbath  
(Ephesians 5:17)

Introduction:

1. The latter part of this verse teaches us to understand "*what the will of the Lord is.*"
2. It begins with "*be ye not unwise.*"
3. During His ministry Jesus was often criticized for doing great works on the Sabbath.
4. The people who did this were unwise -- they were not interested in understanding the Lord's will.
5. In our lesson we are examining an occasion in each of the Gospels when Jesus was criticized.
6. Our purpose is to help us avoid the unwise practice of interpreting Scripture like the Lord's critics did.
7. Let us begin by reading . . .

Discussion:

- I. GOD'S LAW FOR THE SABBATH (EXODUS 20:8-11)
  - A. God did not give a detailed list of things that could be done and things that could not be done on the Sabbath.
  - B. However, He informed the Israelites that the Sabbath (the 7<sup>th</sup> day of the week):
    1. was to be kept "*holy*"
    2. was a day of rest for everyone, including the animals
    3. was to be observed every week.
- II. THE JEWISH LEADERS HAD THEIR OWN DOCTRINES RELATING TO THE SABBATH
  - A. (Matthew 12:1-8) The Pharisees criticized the Lord's disciples for picking and eating grain on the Sabbath.
    1. Jesus pointed out their inconsistencies.
      - a. They overlooked David's violation of the law when he and his followers ate the showbread.
      - b. They also overlooked the actions of the priests when they offered sacrifices on the Sabbath.
    2. Jesus informed the Pharisees that His disciples were "*guiltless.*"
  - B. (Mark 3:1-6) The Pharisees criticized Jesus for healing the man with a withered hand on the Sabbath.
    1. Jesus asked several questions in vs.4 that should have made them think about their beliefs.
    2. Unfortunately, they plotted to destroy Jesus.
  - C. (Luke 13:10-17) Jesus was criticized for healing a woman on the Sabbath.
    1. Jesus pointed out the hypocrisy of the ruler of the synagogue (vs.15).
    2. It would seem that this man had more concern for his animals than for this woman.
  - D. (John 5:8-16) The Jews wanted to kill Jesus for healing a man on the Sabbath.
    1. This man had suffered 38 years.
    2. He was also criticized for carrying his bed as Jesus had instructed him.

Conclusion:

1. The people we have examined had problems concerning the way they interpreted God's law for observing the Sabbath.
2. Let us avoid their unwise practice of "binding" and "loosing" as we endeavor to understand what the will of the Lord is.