

**RULE**

**OF**

**Matthew 12:1-13**

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**LIFE**





# Ask me anything (AMA)

**Text your questions to (608) 836-3236** throughout the Rule of Life series.

Even if we don't have AMA time on a Sunday, we'll include them in the podcast.



Memory Verse

**Whoever claims to  
abide in Him must walk  
as Jesus walked.**

1 John 2:6

# Rule of Life

A pattern of life to focus and shape our practices around God's revealed will to live in His life and liberty and produce His fruit.

Or:

A practical plan to abide in Jesus by walking as He walked.





Main Idea:

# The Way of Jesus was made for us, not us for it.

"The sabbath was made for man, not man for the sabbath. So, the Son of Man is Lord even on the sabbath." – Jesus, Mark 2:27-28



## 3 Ways the Way of Jesus was made *for* us:

1. Shaped to **serve** you
2. Shaped to **fit** you
3. Shaped to **shape** you



The Way of Jesus was...

**Shaped to serve you.**

God's caring intentions for his creatures and their redemption is the foundation and purpose of his statutes and structures.

# Descent into Legalistic Apostasy

1. The law is God's wisdom and our justification & belonging
2. Thus, performance of its statutes is paramount
3. Thus, the performance principles should be extended
4. Thus, we make more statutes/regs. and allow no exceptions
5. These are upheld by **emphasis on God's moral seriousness**
6. Laws are about **performance**. Sacrifices are about **justice**
7. Transgressing added statutes incurs judgment
8. You condemn not just the guilty, but the innocent
9. You will be judged as you have judged



# Sabbath: rested, nourished and healed

Matthew 12:1-14

The Sabbath is the morally serious way **to**  
**give refreshment and restoration** to  
laboring humanity

Don't you remember when David ate the Consecrated bread?  
Or that priest served God by working on the Sabbath?

**1 Samuel 21**

# Sacrifice: mercy, forgiveness and liberty

Matthew 12:1-14

Sacrifice is the morally serious way **to give mercy to the guilty**  
You found a way to use sacrifice to condemn even the innocent.

"I desire mercy, not sacrifice."

Hosea 6:6

## **Hosea 6:5-6**

Therefore I cut you in pieces with my prophets, I killed you with the words of my mouth; my judgments flashed like lightning upon you.

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



## Mark 2:27-28

Then [Jesus] said to them,

**"The Sabbath was made for man,  
not man for the Sabbath.**

**So the Son of Man is Lord even of  
the Sabbath."**



Key application:

**When you do any practice,  
know that it was made to  
serve you. It is a gift.**

Even commanded practices were created to serve and help you. You are not performing the act as intended unless in it, you are receiving a gift from God. The practices of the Way are shaped to serve you.



The Way of Jesus was...

**Shaped to fit you.**

Jesus' Way was made for who and what you are: your need, your humanity, your resistance, your needs, your destiny.

It's not for you to be crammed into, it's designed to both fit and work with you



## Mark 2:19-22

<sup>19</sup> Jesus answered, "How can the guests of the bridegroom **fast** while he is with them? They cannot, so long as they have him with them. <sup>20</sup> But **the time will come** when the bridegroom will be taken from them, and on that day they will **fast**.

<sup>21</sup> "**No one sews a patch of unshrunk cloth on an old garment.** Otherwise, the new piece will pull away from the old, making the tear worse. <sup>22</sup> And **no one pours new wine into old wineskins.** Otherwise, the wine will burst the skins, and **both** the wine and the wineskins **will be ruined**. No, they pour new wine into new wineskins."



# Application:

1. **Inappropriate use** of good spiritual practices **can actually do more harm than good.**
2. The usefulness of **the practice must correlate** with the spiritual "time" and God's foundational purpose.
3. The specifics of our **spiritual practice should modulate** with the environmental specifics as an application of their foundational principle and purpose.
4. **How are these working as new wineskins?**- Sabbath, prayer, fellowship, fasting, worship, study/meditation...



The Way of Jesus was...

**Shaped to shape you.**

You need the Way of Jesus. It doesn't need you.

Though the trellis is for the vine;  
the vine languishes without the trellis.



# It's the exceptions that uphold the Law

Even when they "desecrate" the statute

Jesus never undermines God's commandments.

"So, the Son of Man is **Lord** even on the **Sabbath**."  
Mark 2:28

"Something **greater** than the **Temple** is here."  
Matthew 12:6

\*\*\*Statutes are creation's law made immediate  
(You can't wait for fruit)

# God's truth made immediate

If we wait for our heart and actions to produce their ends, it will be too late to change our fate.

Only statutes and ways can save the short seeing from a destiny of loss and death to life and peace.

IF they keep their Spirit.



## Romans 8:3-4

For what the law was ***powerless to do*** in that it was weakened by the sinful nature, ***God did by sending his own Son*** in the likeness of sinful man to be a sin offering. And so he condemned sin in sinful man, **in order that the righteous requirements of the law might be fully met in us,** who do not live according to the sinful nature but **according to the Spirit.**

# Jesus' Way is Abiding. It is not just it's proof.

Vine branches are the way the vine extends itself to reach out toward fruit with its life.

Jesus' Way: trusting him, learning from him, obeying and following him—is his life stretching out toward fruit in the world.

Thus, walking in his Way IS our practical abiding.  
It is our part in abiding in Jesus.



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