

# THE TRAINING OF THE TWELVE

Adult Discipleship Class Spring 2020

## **THE TRAINING OF THE TWELVE- CHAPTER 7- “Religious Liberty”**

**Scriptures: Matthew 12: 1-4; Luke 6:1-11; 13:10-16; 14:1-6; John 5:1-18**

Jesus was often under scrutiny for how he violated what were considered, “non-negotiable” commandments at the time. Usually the focus were on the ones that outlined appropriate or inappropriate behaviors regarding observances, like the Sabbath, fasting and prayer.

As such, we can sometimes be caught up in observing the “ritual” of the law and neglect the intent of a commandment. As in Jesus’ day, we can so set in our interpretation of things like the Sabbath and forget what the purpose of its observation is really about.

On the other hand we can so critical of how others observe, and in our desire to show our spiritual superiority and our “liberty”, condemn those who may find true worship in a ritual, and in fact become just as condemnatory as we feel others may be against us (lot to think about).

In these passages look to get to the heart of what Jesus is teaching about the practices, observations of our faith and where we get our justification of what we do and why.

## **BIG QUESTIONS FOR REFLECTION**

1. How do I honor the Lord’s Day? How do I rest? How do I worship? How can I justify from scripture my answers and behaviors?
2. Are there any changes I need to make in my practices? What do I need, or what keeps me from making them?
3. Are there acts of mercy I could engage in on the Sabbath? What will I do about them?
4. Can I identify a time I have needed to stand alone for Jesus in the face of opposition? If there a place in my life currently where Jesus may be asking me to take a stand but I have resisted? Am I willing to pray for wisdom, courage and guidance and then act on that opportunity?