

# Reading Luke in Lent



## Gospel of Luke 6:1-16

### Jesus Is Lord of the Sabbath

<sup>1</sup> On a Sabbath, while he was going through the grainfields, his disciples plucked and ate some heads of grain, rubbing them in their hands.

<sup>2</sup> But some of the Pharisees said,  
'Why are you doing what is not lawful to do on the Sabbath?'

<sup>3</sup> And Jesus answered them,  
'Have you not read what David did when he was hungry, he and those who were with him:  
<sup>4</sup> how he entered the house of God and took and ate the bread of the Presence,  
which is not lawful for any but the priests to eat, and also gave it to those with him?'

<sup>5</sup> And he said to them,  
'The Son of Man is lord of the Sabbath.'

### A Man with a Withered Hand

<sup>6</sup> On another Sabbath, he entered the synagogue and was teaching, and a man was there whose right hand was withered.

<sup>7</sup> And the scribes and the Pharisees watched him, to see whether he would heal on the Sabbath, so that they might find a reason to accuse him.

<sup>8</sup> But he knew their thoughts, and he said to the man with the withered hand,  
'Come and stand here.' And he rose and stood there.

<sup>9</sup> And Jesus said to them,  
'I ask you, is it lawful on the Sabbath to do good or to do harm, to save life or to destroy it?'

<sup>10</sup> And after looking around at them all he said to him,  
'Stretch out your hand.' And he did so, and his hand was restored.

<sup>11</sup> But they were filled with fury and discussed with one another what they might do to Jesus.

### The Twelve Apostles

<sup>12</sup> In these days he went out to the mountain to pray, and all night he continued in prayer to God.

<sup>13</sup> And when day came, he called his disciples and chose from them twelve, whom he named apostles:

<sup>14</sup> Simon, whom he named Peter, and Andrew his brother, and James and John, and Philip, and Bartholomew,

<sup>15</sup> and Matthew, and Thomas, and James the son of Alphaeus, and Simon who was called the Zealot,

<sup>16</sup> and Judas the son of James, and Judas Iscariot, who became a traitor.

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## Reflection

Whenever bread is mentioned it is possible to make a connection with the Eucharist. Here the verbs to eat and to give are linked with the Last Supper. But this passage is also about who Jesus is. Again there is the connection with David the king but also Jesus is the priest who can eat the bread and give to others. Finally in this passage he refers to himself, once again, as the Son of Man, who here has divine authority.

For the second section it is again a Sabbath. It is possible to recall that Jesus was in a synagogue in Nazareth on the Sabbath where he proclaimed liberty for the oppressed. The Sabbath is the ideal day for this, for restoring people to health. In both these passages the Pharisees question Jesus and seek to work against him. After prayer Jesus chooses twelve apostles to work with him.

- Before which decisions in your life would you spend time in prayer?

## Prayer

Compassionate God,  
your word calls labourers to the harvest.

Send us who are blest with the gift of your kingdom  
to announce its coming with gladness  
and to manifest its healing power.

We make our prayer through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,  
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
God for ever and ever.

Amen.