

Luke 5: Overregulation Leads to Murder

- ↳ **Luke 6:1-11**, The gospel of Luke began with so much joy and hopefulness, but the clouds begin to build in chapter 5 and now they are plotting to kill Jesus. What got Jesus killed was that He couldn't keep His mouth shut. He could have saved His own neck, but that's not His mission. His mission was to save us, so in order for that to happen, He had to cut through the error with the truth. God's truth is more important than anything else, than self-preservation, than keeping our status, keeping our money, or saving our skin.
 - ↳ We need to make a decision right now what we are going to do when we are put in the place where it's either stand for and speak the truth or save ourselves. Do you tell the truth? Jesus didn't escalate the conflict here because He was insensitive or ungracious; it escalated because He spoke the truth. The tipping point of the escalation between Jesus and the Pharisees is this issue and conflict over the Sabbath.
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1. The Sabbath was the anchor and the touchstone for the Pharisee's self-made Judaism.

- ✓ The Sabbath was the peg that this entire false system hung on. The Sabbath day, by the time of Jesus, had become an accumulation point for the greatest complex of restrictions and regulations that any religion has ever seen. They had turned the day of rest into the worst day of the week.
 - ✓ Before we get into how they horribly mangled this day, let's have, as a backdrop, the truth. **Exodus 20:2**, That's it, that's all there is: don't work, don't make anybody else work; no one is to perform a job whether paid or slave labor. Take a walk, hike, fish, go to the beach, have friends over, sleep late, recuperate, rejuvenate, rest; that is all that God ever said about it.
 - ✓ They began to fill this beautiful day with all kinds of rules and regulations and made this day the most painful day of the week.
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2. Sabbath overregulation.

- ✓ The Talmud contains 24 chapters of interpretation of what they thought God meant by "Don't work." You were assured of Hell itself if you broke any of these knowingly or unknowingly.
 - ✓ How fun is that? How restful is that? The way they overregulated the Sabbath was how they handled all of the Laws of God; God wasn't religious enough for them, Matt. 11:28.
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3. "Not Lawful on the Sabbath"?

- ✓ Whose law? Theirs or God's? "Haven't You read our rules?" Jesus responds with "have you never read?" Jesus pulls the rug out from under them by saying, "The Son of Man is Lord of the Sabbath."
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