

The Fulfillment of the Law

Luke 6:1-11.

Jesus is teaching in a synagogue on the Sabbath, when he sees a man with a withered hand. Rather than wait a few hours until sunset and the end of the Sabbath to be sure that he wasn't in violation of the command not to work on the holy day, he heals him then and there. Why didn't Jesus wait?

Jesus heals on the Sabbath to make a point. God's intent for the law was not merely that his people would follow the rules and regulations, 'ticking the boxes' as it were. God's intent for the law was that it would inspire his people to love him and love others with all that they are – not to stop at the letter of the law but to go beyond it in love.

We are constantly tempted to understand our obligation to (and relationship with) God and others as a series of requirements and regulations. We want a set of things we have to do that are practical, easily definable and achievable. Once we've done them, assuring ourselves that we are good people, we can get on with our own lives as we like. The challenge of Jesus is to go beyond that: to not be satisfied with 'ticking the boxes' with God and others and instead seek to give ourselves over completely in love.

Questions

1. What stood out to you in the service?
2. How can you respond?