



Matthew 12 (NRSV)

1 At that time Jesus went through the grainfields on the sabbath; his disciples were hungry, and they began to pluck heads of grain and to eat. 2 When the Pharisees saw it, they said to him, "Look, your disciples are doing what is not lawful to do on the sabbath." 3 He said to them, "Have you not read what David did when he and his companions were

hungry? 4 He entered the house of God and ate the bread of the Presence, which it was not lawful for him or his companions to eat, but only for the priests. 5 Or have you not read in the law that on the sabbath the priests in the temple break the sabbath and yet are guiltless? 6 I tell you, something greater than the temple is here. 7 But if you had known what this means, 'I desire mercy and not sacrifice,' you would not have condemned the guiltless. 8 For the Son of Man is lord of the sabbath."

Matthew 12 (The Message)

1-2 One Sabbath, Jesus was strolling with his disciples through a field of ripe grain. Hungry, the disciples were pulling off the heads of grain and munching on them. Some Pharisees reported them to Jesus: "Your disciples are breaking the Sabbath rules!"

3-5 Jesus said, "Really? Didn't you ever read what David and his companions did when they were hungry, how they entered the sanctuary and ate fresh bread off the altar, bread that no one but priests were allowed to eat? And didn't you ever read in God's Law that priests carrying out their Temple duties break Sabbath rules all the time and it's not held against them?"

6-8 "There is far more at stake here than religion. If you had any idea what this Scripture meant—I prefer a flexible heart to an inflexible ritual—you wouldn't be nitpicking like this. The Son of Man is no yes-man to the Sabbath; he's in charge."

Glory to God forever*

Steve Fee, Vicky Beeching

Before the world was made, Before You spoke it to be
You were the King of kings, Yeah You were, yeah You were
And now You're reigning still, Enthroned above all things
Angels and saints cry out
We join them as we sing

(We sing) Glory to God, Glory to God
Glory to God forever
Glory to God, Glory to God
Glory to God forever

Creator God You gave me breath
So I could praise Your great and matchless name
All my days all my days
So let my whole life be
A blazing offering
A life that shouts and sings
The greatness of our King

Take my life and let it be
All for You and for Your glory
Take my life and let it be Yours (repeat)

Leaning on the everlasting arms

E. A. Hoffman

What a fellowship, what a joy divine
Leaning on the everlasting arms
What a blessedness, what a peace is mine
Leaning on the everlasting arms

Refrain: Leaning, leaning
Safe and secure from all alarms
Leaning, leaning
Leaning on the everlasting arms

O how sweet to walk in this pilgrim way
Leaning on the everlasting arms
O how bright the path grows from day to day
Leaning on the everlasting arms [Refrain]

What have I to dread, what have I to fear
Leaning on the everlasting arms
I have blessed peace with my Lord so near
Leaning on the everlasting arms [Refrain]

Food for Thought: Under New Management (Matthew 12)

- **Introduction and review**
 - **No Substitutions: Adam and Eve**
 - **Craving the Past: Numbers**
 - **Plucking grain on the Sabbath (Matt 12; Mk 2; Luke 6)**
 - **Sabbath controversies**
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- **Part 1: What the disciples do**
 - **Pick grain and eat**
 - **On the Sabbath**
 - **They're being watched**
 - **Pharisee: from "to set apart"**
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- **Part 2: The Pharisees respond**
 - **The disciples' actions are unlawful on the Sabbath**
 - **Genesis: rest on the 7th day**
 - **Exodus 16: no gathering manna on the Sabbath**
 - **Exodus 20: one of the 10 commandments**
 - **Exodus 31: a capital offense**
 - **What is "work"?**
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- **Part 3: Jesus responds to the Pharisees**
 - **"Have you not read?"**
 - **A hermeneutical lesson: consider ALL of scripture**
 - **David and the bread of the Presence; priests**
 - **Something bigger than the Temple is here**
 - **The Pharisees had failed to keep the Sabbath holy**
 - **Under new management: Jesus is in charge**
 - **Mercy not sacrifice: a flexible heart not inflexible ritual**
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Doxology
Thomas Ken

Praise God from Whom all blessings flow
Praise Him all creatures here below
Praise Him above ye heavenly host
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost

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