

A sepia-toned landscape featuring a winding dirt road that leads up a hill. At the top of the hill, there is a city with several buildings and three large crosses. The background shows rolling hills and a hazy sky.

# Lord of the Sabbath

Luke 6:1-11

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But some of the Pharisees said,  
“Why do you do what is not lawful on the Sabbath?”

## **Luke 6:3-5**

And Jesus answering them said,  
“Have you not even read what David did when he was hungry,  
he and those who were with him, how he entered  
the house of God, and took and ate the consecrated bread  
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and gave it to his companions?”

And He was saying to them,  
“The Son of Man is Lord of the Sabbath.”

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The scribes and the Pharisees were watching Him closely to see if He healed on the Sabbath, so that they might find reason to accuse Him.

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But He knew what they were thinking, and He said to the man with the withered hand, “Get up and come forward!”

And he got up and came forward. And Jesus said to them, “I ask you, is it lawful to do good or to do harm on the Sabbath, to save a life or to destroy it?”

After looking around at them all, He said to him, “Stretch out your hand!”

And he did so; and his hand was restored.

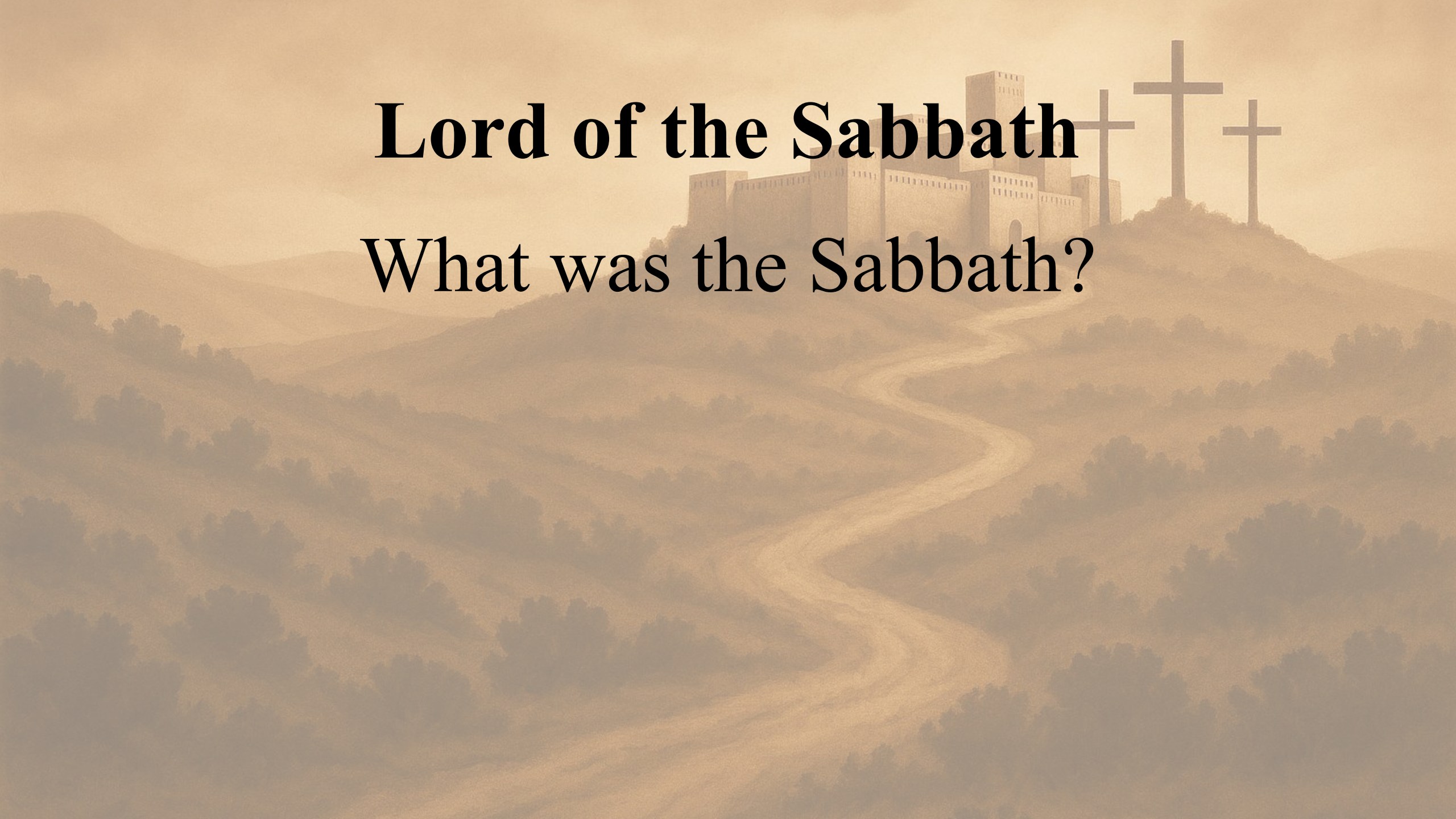
But they themselves were filled with rage, and discussed together what they might do to Jesus.

# Main Point

Jesus claimed authority over the interpretation and application of Sabbath regulation and demonstrated His authority by His works, exposing the Pharisees' self-righteous and cold-hearted legalism.

# Lord of the Sabbath

What was the Sabbath?



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# **What was the Sabbath?**

*As it was instituted in the Law.*



## **Exodus 20:8-11**

Remember the sabbath day, to keep it holy.

Six days you shall labor and do all your work,  
but the seventh day is a sabbath of the LORD your God;  
in it you shall not do any work, you or your son or  
your daughter, your male or your female servant  
or your cattle or your sojourner who stays with you.

For in six days the LORD made the heavens and the earth,  
the sea and all that is in them, and rested on the seventh day;  
therefore the LORD blessed the sabbath day and made it holy.

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## **Exodus 35:2-3**

For six days work may be done, but on the seventh day you shall have a holy day, a sabbath of complete rest to the LORD; whoever does any work on it shall be put to death. You shall not kindle a fire in any of your dwellings on the sabbath day.

## **Exodus 23:12**

Six days you are to do your work, but on the seventh day you shall cease from labor so that your ox and your donkey may rest, and the son of your female slave, as well as your stranger, may refresh themselves.

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**refresh themselves.**

The Sabbath was a marker of Israel's distinct identity as the covenant people of God and served as a sign of their faith in His provisions and in His promise of rest.

## **Ezekiel 20:12**

Also I gave them My sabbaths **to be a sign between Me and them**, that they might know that I am the LORD who sanctifies them.

# What was the Sabbath?

As it was instituted in the Law.

As it was practiced by the Pharisees.



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**Lawful according to whom?**

The Jewish religious establishment had developed extensive regulations governing Sabbath activities aimed at defining “work.”

# Categories of Prohibited Sabbath Labor

Sowing

Plowing Reaping Gathering Threshing Winnowing Selecting/Sorting

Grinding

Sifting Kneading Baking (cooking)

Shearing Washing

Combing Dyeing

Spinning Stretching Looping Weaving Separating

Tying/Untying Sewing

Tearing Trapping

Hunting Slaughtering Skinning

Curing

Tanning Scraping

Scoring

Cutting

# Carrying

Carrying an object from a private house into a public street or carrying more than a prescribed amount (e.g., a needle, a pen, food, a key, coins, jewelry, clothing, etc.).

# Lord of the Sabbath

The background features a sepia-toned illustration of a walled city or fortress built on a hillside. A winding path leads up to the city. To the right of the city, three crosses of varying heights are visible against the sky. The overall scene is hazy and atmospheric.

What was the Sabbath?

What were the Pharisees' accusations?

# **What were the accusations?**

In respect to Jesus' disciples.



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on the Sabbath?”**

The Pharisees were likely accusing Jesus' disciples, and Jesus Himself by association, of breaking their regulations against reaping and threshing.

# What were the accusations?

In respect to Jesus' disciples.

In respect to Jesus' healing.



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to see if He healed on the Sabbath,

**so that they might** find reason to **accuse Him.**

According to their regulations,  
delivering a baby or performing  
emergency medical treatment would  
have been lawful, but healing  
a withered hand could wait.

# Lord of the Sabbath

The background of the slide features a sepia-toned landscape. In the upper right, a hill is topped with a large stone castle or fortress. To the right of the castle, three crosses of varying heights are visible against the sky. A dirt road winds from the bottom center of the frame up towards the castle. The overall atmosphere is historical and solemn.

What was the Sabbath?

What were the Pharisees' accusations?

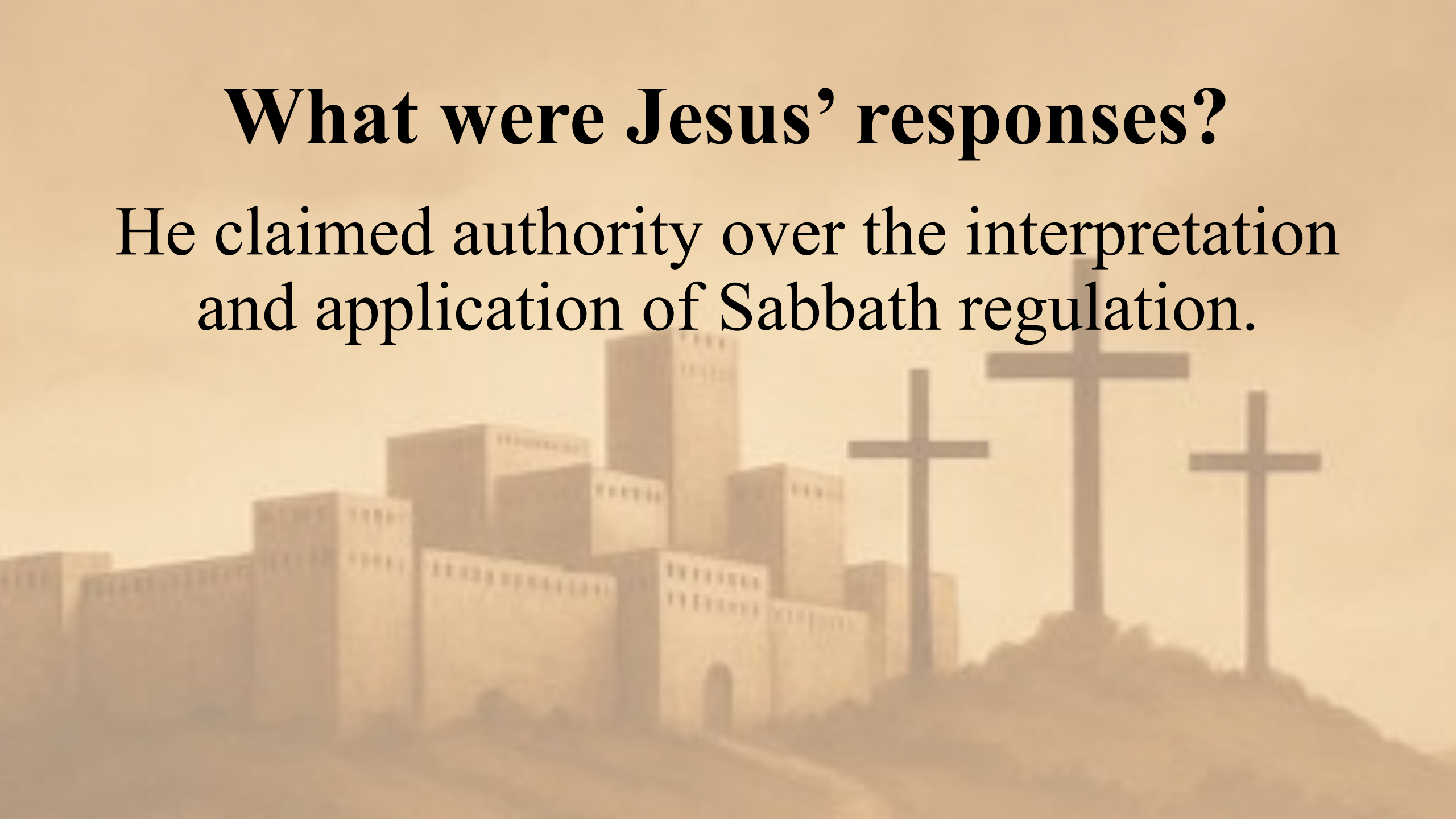
What were Jesus' responses?

**Luke 6:5**

**“The Son of Man is Lord of the Sabbath.”**

# **What were Jesus' responses?**

He claimed authority over the interpretation and application of Sabbath regulation.



# In respect to His disciples...

**Luke 6:3-4**

And Jesus answering them said,  
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If Ahimelech could override the ceremonial law to meet a need on David's authority, how much more can "the Son of Man" override the traditions of the Pharisees to meet his disciples' needs on His authority as "Lord of the Sabbath"?

Jesus was claiming authority to interpret and apply Sabbath law.

**Matthew 12:5-6**

“Or have you not read in the Law, that on the Sabbath the priests in the temple break the Sabbath and are innocent?”

“But I say to you that something greater than the temple is here.”

Not only did Jesus claim to be the greater David, but He is also claimed to be the greater Temple; and this was another reason His disciples were not guilty of breaking the Sabbath in their service to Him. In essence, they were priests doing their duty.

# **What were Jesus' responses?**

He claimed authority over the interpretation and application of Sabbath regulation.

**He proved His authority by His works.**



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## **Luke 6:8-10**

But He knew what they were thinking, and He said to the man with the withered hand, “Get up and come forward!”

And he got up and came forward. And Jesus said to them, “I ask you, is it lawful to do good or to do harm on the Sabbath, to save a life or to destroy it?”

After looking around at them all, He said to him,

“Stretch out your hand!”

And he did so; and his hand was restored.

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And he did so; **and his hand was restored.**

Jesus asserted his authority as Lord of the Sabbath and then proved His authority by doing on the Sabbath what only God can do.

**John 9:31-33**

“We know that God does not hear sinners; but if anyone is God-fearing and does His will, He hears him. Since the beginning of time it has never been heard that anyone opened the eyes of a person born blind. If this man were not from God, He could do nothing.”

**John 10:25**

Jesus answered them,

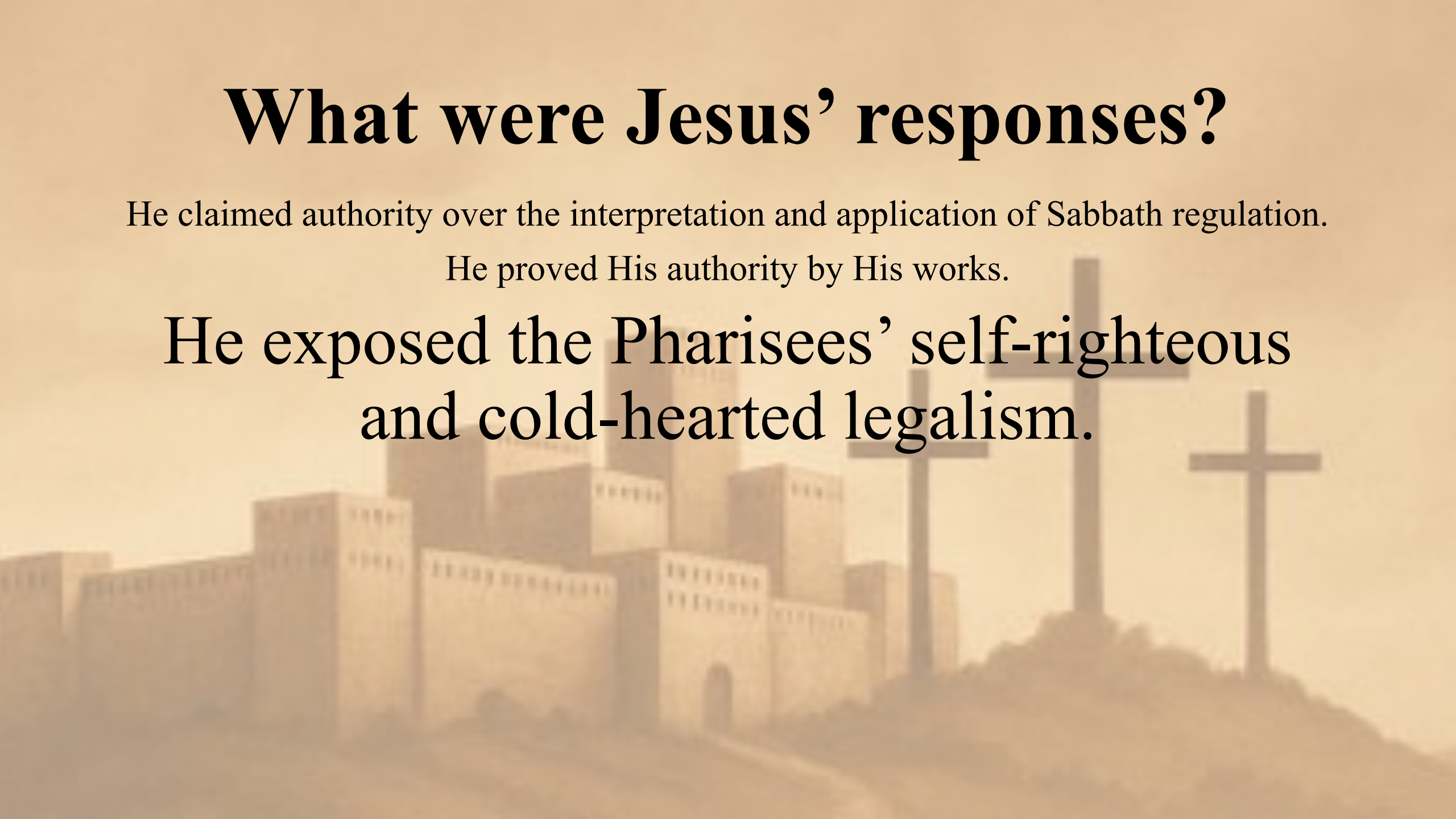
“I told you, and you do not believe;  
the works that I do in My Father’s name,  
these testify of Me.”

# What were Jesus' responses?

He claimed authority over the interpretation and application of Sabbath regulation.

He proved His authority by His works.

He exposed the Pharisees' self-righteous  
and cold-hearted legalism.



**Luke 6:8-9**

**But He knew what they were thinking.**

And said to them,

“Is it lawful to do good or to do harm on the Sabbath,  
to save a life or to destroy it?”

Jesus’ question and work of healing  
exposed a self-righteous and cold-hearted  
legalism that kept them from a disposition  
of mercy and compassion.

## **Matthew 12:7**

“But if you had known what this means,  
‘I DESIRE COMPASSION, AND NOT A SACRIFICE,’  
you would not have condemned the innocent.”

They condemned the innocent because they did not know what this meant and focused on *the acts* of obedience rather than on *the heart* of obedience.

Their focus was on the *letter of the Law*,  
but the letter kills compassion and mercy  
and is a “ministry of death” because  
it is a “ministry of condemnation.”

## **2 Corinthians 3:6**

But we have been made “servants of a new covenant,  
not of the letter but of the Spirit;  
for the letter kills, but the Spirit gives life.”

# For Reflection

Are you serving the Law, or Christ,  
the Lawgiver?

Are you ministering the Law, or Christ,  
the Gracegiver?

Are you seeking your security by looking  
to the Law or by looking to the cross?