

The literary structure of Mark 2:23-28 - Jesus defends plucking grain on the Sabbath

A. Sabbath/Jesus allows his disciples to pluck grain: ²³One Sabbath he was going through the grainfields, and as they made their way, his disciples began to pluck heads of grain.

B. A question - lawful/grain: ²⁴And the Pharisees were saying to him, "Look, why are they doing what is not lawful on the Sabbath?"

B¹. Counter question - lawful/bread:

a) What David did: ²⁵And he said to them, "Have you never read what David did,

b) In need and hungry: when he was in need and was hungry, he and those who were with him:

a¹) What David did: ²⁶how he entered the house of God, in the time of Abiathar the high priest, and ate the bread of the Presence, which it is not lawful for any but the priests to eat, and also gave it to those who were with him?"

A¹. Sabbath/Jesus allows his disciples to pluck grain: ²⁷And he said to them, "The Sabbath was made for man, not man for the Sabbath. ²⁸So the Son of Man is lord even of the Sabbath."