



# THIS IS YOUR SPACE TO STAND UP

31 JANUARY 2021

## READING - LUKE 6:1-16

“ One sabbath while Jesus was going through the grainfields, his disciples plucked some heads of grain, rubbed them in their hands, and ate them.

2But some of the Pharisees said, “Why are you doing what is not lawful on the sabbath?” 3Jesus answered, “Have you not read what David did when he and his companions were hungry? 4He entered the house of God and took and ate the bread of the Presence, which it is not lawful for any but the priests to eat, and gave some to his companions?” 5Then he said to them, “The Son of Man is lord of the sabbath.” 6On another sabbath he entered the synagogue and taught, and there was a man there whose right hand was withered. 7The scribes and the Pharisees watched him to see whether he would cure on the sabbath, so that they might find an accusation against him. 8Even though he knew what they were thinking, he said to the man who had the withered hand, “Come and stand here.” He got up and stood there. 9Then Jesus said to them, “I ask you, is it lawful to do good or to do harm on the sabbath, to save life or to destroy it?” 10After looking around at all of them, he said to him, “Stretch out your hand.” He did so, and his hand was restored. 11But they were filled with fury and discussed with one another what they might do to Jesus.

12Now during those days he went out to the mountain to pray; and he spent the night in prayer to God. 13And when day came, he called his disciples and chose twelve of them, whom he also named apostles: 14Simon, whom he named Peter, and his brother Andrew, and James, and John, and Philip, and Bartholomew, 15and Matthew, and

Thomas, and James son of Alphaeus, and Simon, who was called the Zealot, 16and Judas son of James, and Judas Iscariot, who became a traitor.

## REFLECTION POINTS:

The aim of the Sabbath was to offer rest and renewal and to honour God. The rules were motivated by a desire to build and form God’s people into a community of faith with a shared understanding of God and God’s love and mercy.

- How does the way we live the Sabbath honour God and offer rest and renewal?
- How do we ensure this rest and renewal is enjoyed by the whole of creation?
- What will this mean for the way we live?
- How do we share an understanding of God’s love and mercy?

Archbishop Desmond Tutu is reported to have said:

*“We are each made for goodness, love and compassion. Our lives are transformed as much as the world is when we live with these truths.”*

How might this connect to this morning’s reading?

Rules and laws are essential to keeping people safe and maintaining order in our communities. How does this morning’s reading and Tutu’s words both support and challenge this?