

The Chiasm of Luke 6:1-5

A chiasm is a literary structure where vocabulary of the first section of a passage is repeated in reverse order in the second. The center of the chiasm is typically the climax of the passage. In Luke 6:1-5 the center and climax is that David and his companions ate the consecrated bread in the temple which was according to the law just for the priests (Luke 6:3-4a).

A Now it happened that He was passing through some grainfields on **a Sabbath**; and His disciples were picking the heads of grain, rubbing them in their hands, and eating the grain. But some of the Pharisees **said**, "Why do you do what is not lawful on **the Sabbath**?" (6:1-2)

B And Jesus answering them said, "Have you **not even** (Greek: *oude*) read what David did when he was hungry, he and **those who were with him** Greek: (*hoi met autou*), how he entered the house of God, and took and **ate** the consecrated bread (6:3-4a)

B' which is not (Greek: *ouk*) lawful for any **to eat** except the priests alone, and gave it to **his companions** (Greek: *tois met autou*)?" (6:4b)

A' And **He was saying** to them, "The Son of Man is Lord **of the Sabbath**." (6:5)