[Narrator] In the gospels, the books of the bible that tell us most of what we know about the life of Jesus, there are many stories of him trying to explain to religious leaders something that he knew that God wanted us all to know. He wanted them and us to know that people matter more to God than anything else. This is one of those stories from the book of Matthew. In it, Jesus shows and tells us that to God, People matter more.

In our story are James and John who are two of Jesus' disciples. There is also a religious leader called a Pharisee, and of course Jesus.

[Scene] James comes up to John with several stalks of grain and hands him some.

[James] Just got these from the corner of that field and thought you'd like some too. I know that neither of us has eaten in over a day.

[John] Well you are right, I'm hungry but it's the Sabbath and we aren't supposed to do any work on the Sabbath and braking those pods of grain sure looks like a lot of work to me. What also concerns me is that Pharisee whose been following us. You know how much he has been bothering the teacher every time we do almost anything that he thinks is wrong.

[James] woops, didn't see him. Oh no.

[Scene] Pharisee comes on and strides up to Jesus.

[Pharisee] Teacher, have you noticed what your followers are doing?

[Scene] Jesus looks over at James and John.

[Jesus] I guess that they are having some wheat to eat. It's been over a day since we've eaten and I'm sure that they are hungry.

[Pharisee] As a teacher, you must be aware that it is the Sabbath and that you aren't supposed to work on the Sabbath. Opening those wheat pods is work, no doubt about it.

[Jesus] I'm a little confused. We are all very hungry and they are just taking enough to tide them over for a little while.

[Pharisee] Teacher, They are breaking Sabbath rules and they are disciples, disciples should be trying especially hard to follow God. As followers of God we have to show everyone that we are God's people, and that means that what matters to God matters to us. We know that what matters to God most is doing what God wants and that means following the rules about the Sabbath exactly even if it means being a little hungry.

 [Jesus] So you think that following the rules is what matters most to God?

[Pharisee]Yes. In fact, I believe that If we all follow the rules really well that God will make us a great nation again.

[Jesus] I do agree that paying attention to the rules that God has given us is very important but I think that there are things that are even more important. Do you remember the story about how David went and took the priest's bread and gave it to his hungry men? Well that was very much against the rules wasn't it.

[Pharisee] Well yes but...

[Jesus] Do you remember the scripture that says that it is kindness that God wants, even more than sacrifice? I believe that what matters most to God is people and how we treat each other and help each other. People matter more than anything and that is what God is wanting us to understand. I want to show people that people matter more, even more than the rules and I want my followers to show them that as well. I know that showing everyone that people matter more is what Sabbath worship is really all about.

[scene] Pharisee scratches head and leaves.

[Narrator] Jesus' followers remembered this story. They remembered it because it is very easy to get caught up in rules. Yes, rules are very important, They help us work together and understand what to expect from each other, but it's even more important that we be kind and caring with each other. For Jesus, People matter more than rules, more than anything. Now it's our turn to remember and be like Jesus by showing the people around us that they all matter.

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