

Matthew 12:1-14

- REVIEW...

- FIRST - The Presentation of the King – **Matthew 1-7**
- SECOND – The Ministry of the King – **Matthew 8-18**
- No Repentance...
 - Jesus sent out the TWELVE into the HARVEST - because it was RIPE - **Matthew 9:37**
 - But the CITIES who has seen the greatest POWER [δύναμις] of Jesus - did NOT repent...
 - Therefore he said WOE unto you: Chorazin - Bethsaida - and Capernaum...
 - If the works they had seen were done in: Tyre - Sidon - or Sodom - they would have repented!
- Who can be saved...
 - But if the CITIES at the heart of His MINISTRY had refused to REPENT - who could be SAVED...
 - God WANTS people to go to HEAVEN - He LOVES the whole world - **John 3:16**
 - Therefore - the Gospel message is NOT complicated - even CHILDREN can understand it...
 - Anyone who CHOOSES to believe in Jesus - is CHOSEN by Him to know the Father...
 - Therefore ALL who have a HEAVY burden of sin - COME to Jesus and He will give REST...
 - YOKE up to Him - and He will help us live a GODLY life...
 - LEARN about Him - because salvation is a RELATIONSHIP with a LOVING God!

- 1ST – THE SABBATH DAY... vs. 1-8

- 1st - What is the Sabbath... vs. 1
 - From Creation - **Genesis 2:3**
 - At that time Jesus went through the grainfields on the Sabbath!
 - The Sabbath can be very confusing subject - we want to open by looking at THREE things:
 - FIRST - the SABBATH was established in the BEGINNING...
 - After the SIX days of creation there was nothing else to be done – the work was completed...
 - So God rested [שָׁבַת] – SABBATH – a word that means to stop working!
 - Just as God worked SIX days to create the World – we are only to work SIX days a week...
 - The SEVENTH day is to rest – it is known as the SABBATH – the FOURTH commandment!
 - **Exodus 20:9-10** – “Six days you shall labor and do all your work - but the seventh day is the Sabbath of the LORD your God. In it you shall do no work...”
 - The Purpose...
 - SECOND - it was a day that God made HOLY [קֹדֶשׁ] – set apart to remember the LORD!
 - It used to be that EVERYTHING was closed on Sundays...
 - People could not go to the MALL - or out to EAT - it was a day to think about God!
 - I kind of wish we could go back to those days - because now we have a LOT of distractions...
 - People come to church - but it seems like the service is on a TIMER...
 - We CHECK in so we can say we did our part for God this week - then RUSH out the door...
 - But in our BUSY schedule it can be easy to MISS - we exist to KNOW Him!
 - **John 17:3** – “This is eternal life - that we may know Jesus!”
 - Day of the Week...
 - THIRD - Saturday is the Jewish SABBATH – from sunset on Friday to sunset on Saturday...
 - We still have the word SABBATH in Ilonggo – Sabado means SABBATH [day to rest]!
 - We might ask – then why do we come to church on SUNDAY...
 - In the book of Acts the church gathered together on SUNDAYS – **Acts 20:7**
 - SUNDAY was the FIRST day of the week on the Jewish calendar...
 - They did this to remember the resurrection of Jesus – FIRST day of the week – **Luke 24:1**
 - That is why we consider SUNDAY – the FIRST day of the week - to be our day of rest!

- o 2nd - Forbidden to Work... vs. 1-2
 - Hungry... vs. 1
 - Jesus disciples were hungry - and began to pluck heads of grain and to eat!
 - Jesus and his DISCIPLES were walking through a FIELD on the SABBATH...
 - The DISCIPLES were HUNGRY - so they began to pick the CORN and eat it!
 - This was allowed by the Law of Moses - **Deuteronomy 23:25**
 - Anyone could pick food from ANY field so long as it was eaten immediately...
 - The PROBLEM was they were rubbing [cooking] the grain between their hands - **Luke 6:1**
 - Not Lawful... vs. 2
 - When the Pharisees saw it - they said to [Jesus]:
 - Look Your disciples are doing what is not lawful to do on the Sabbath!
 - The PHARISEES were watching EVERY move of Jesus and His DISCIPLES...
 - And when they saw them COOKING - they began to COMPLAIN to Jesus...
 - Because the DISCIPLES were doing what was NOT allowed [οὐκ ἔξεστιν] on the SABBATH!
 - It is against the LAW of Moses to WORK on the SABBATH - **Exodus 20:9-10**
 - And the penalty for going WORK was DEATH - **Numbers 15:32**
 - When Israel was in the WILDERNESS - a man was found gathering sticks on the Sabbath day...
 - The punishment for his crime was to be stoned to DEATH by the people!
 - Defining Work...
 - The challenge was - the Bible said you could NOT work on the SABBATH...
 - But what constituted WORK – that is where the PHARISEES stepped in...
 - They defined what God MEANT when He said you could NOT work [39 do nots]!
 - The PHARISEES taught that it breaks the Sabbath to - pick your nose [reaping]
 - According to the PHARISEES - even turning on a light [kindling] is breaking the Sabbath!
 - Yet nowhere in the Bible are ANY of these rules given by God...
 - And the problem was these ADDED rules - took away from the SIMPLE truth...
 - The SABBATH was meant to be a day set aside [no work] to focus on the LORD!
- o 3rd - Exceptions for work... vs. 3-6
 - King David... vs. 3-4
 - Have you not read what David did when he was hungry he and those who were with him.
 - How he entered the house of God and ate the showbread which was not lawful for him to eat.
 - Nor for those who were with him - but only for the priests!
 - Unlike the PHARISEES - who added their OPINION to define what WORK meant [39 do nots]
 - Jesus went back to the WORD of God to find the DEFINITION...
 - He uses THREE examples from the Bible to define what is allowed on the SABBATH...
 - FIRST - did they not KNOW [γινώσκω] what the BIBLE said about David:
 - King David got hungry [like the disciples] - when he was running from Saul
 - He came to the TABERNACLE and asked for FOOD - **I Samuel 21:3-6**
 - The ONLY food they had were the TWELVE loaves of HOLY [ἁγία] Bread [showbread]
 - And ONLY the Priests were allowed to eat the HOLY [ἁγία] Bread – **Leviticus 24:9**
 - Yet in spite of it NOT being allowed [οὐκ ἔξον] – David ate the bread because he was Hungry!
 - I am always worry when people give answers by quoting the ideas of MEN...
 - If we want to KNOW what the Bible means - go back to the Bible for the answer...
 - Because the BEST commentary on the Bible - is the BIBLE!
 - The Priests... vs. 5
 - Or have you not read in the law that on the Sabbath the priests in the temple...
 - Profane the Sabbath and are blameless!
 - SECOND - Jesus gave an example from the LAW of Moses...

- Did the PHARISEES not KNOW [γινώσκω] what the BIBLE said:
- **Numbers 28:10** - "The burnt offering [are] to be presented each Sabbath day."
- PRIESTS were required to continue the DAILY offerings - even on the SABBATH...
- They had to WORK on the SABBATH day - but we INNOCENT [ἀναίτιος] - 2x in NT!
- Great than the Temple... vs. 6
 - Yet I say to you that in this place there is One greater than the temple!
 - FIRST - it was OK for DAVID to EAT the Holy [ἅγιος] Bread from the TEMPLE...
 - SECOND - it was OK for the PRIESTS to WORK on the SABBATH in the TEMPLE...
 - Then the DISCIPLES of Jesus were OK to EAT [work] on the SABBATH...
 - Because Jesus is GREATER than the TEMPLE!
 - The SABBATH was NOT meant to keep men from serving God...
 - It is meant to be a day when they get to FOCUS on the LORD
 - But RELIGION does a good job of taking the BLESSINGS of God and making the BURDENS!
 - RELIGION tells us we HAVE to GIVE [including the amount]
 - Warns us that we must READ [how many chapters] - and go to CHURCH [how many times]
 - But when these things become RULES - we miss the point...
 - It is NOT about what we do for God - it is about knowing a God who did everything for us!
- o 4th - Lord of the Sabbath... vs. 7-8
 - Mercy not sacrifice... vs. 7
 - But if you had known what this means: I desire mercy and not sacrifice.
 - You would not have condemned the guiltless!
 - Jesus gave one LAST example - but this time from the PROPHETS...
 - If the PHARISEES had KNOWN [they did not] what this meant:
 - **Hosea 6:6** - "I desire mercy and not sacrifice."
 - Then they would NOT have condemned [judged] the INNOCENT [ἀναίτιος]!
 - Straining at a mosquito...
 - **Matthew 23:24** - "Blind guides who strain out a [mosquito] and swallow a camel!"
 - The law forbid eating BLOOD - so PHARISEES would gag on a mosquito...
 - They made sure to follow the SMALLEST details of the law...
 - But they missed the MOST important TRUTH of the Word – they missed Jesus!
 - People still JUDGE others over unimportant issues...
 - What DAY of the week someone comes to church - what they WEARS in church...
 - What kind of SONGS they sing at church - or what BIBLE translation they teach from...
 - But what they are MISSING - is that Jesus is what CHURCH should be all about!
 - **John 5:39** - "You search the Scriptures because you think they give you eternal life. But the Scriptures point to me."
 - Son of Man... vs. 8
 - For the Son of Man is Lord even of the Sabbath!
 - Jesus is [present] the LORD [κύριος] of the SABBATH [the rest]
 - The PHARISEES thought that the SABBATH was their REST...
 - But the SABBATH was only a SHADOW that was meant to point to the TRUE rest!
 - **Colossians 2:16-17** – "Let no one judge you... regarding... sabbaths which are a shadow of things to come but the substance is of Christ."
 - If we see the shadow of our best friend do we run up and hug the shadow...
 - But that shadow does tell us our friend is very close!
- It is heavy to my heart to see what some have made church into...
- A place where people come to learn RULES - and are told WHAT to do...

- Rather than what it is meant to be - a place to come and MEET Jesus...
- A place where we can come and find REST for our souls - **Matthew 11:29-30**

● **2ND - BREAKING THE SABBATH... vs. 9-14**

o 1st - Testing Jesus... vs. 9-10

- When He had departed from there He went into their synagogue.
- Behold there was a man who had a withered hand. And they asked Him saying:
- Is it lawful to heal on the Sabbath? - that they might accuse Him!
- Jesus and his disciples left the PHARISEES to go to CHURCH [synagogue]
- But there was man there who had a useless hand [withered]
- The PHARISEES [still following Jesus] looking for something to ACCUSE Him of asked:
- Is it allowed [ἔξεστιν] to HEAL on the SABBATH day!
- According to their INTERPRETATION of the Law - you could NOT heal on the SABBATH...
- The MOST one could do - would be to save a life if someone was dying...
- Anything more than that - and it would constitute WORK!

o 2nd - Hypocrites... vs. 11-12

- The sheep... vs. 11
 - Then He said to them: What man is there among you who has one sheep.
 - And if it falls into a pit on the Sabbath - will not lay hold of it and lift it out?
 - Jesus answered with an illustration to show the HYPOCRISY of the PHARISEES...
 - If ANY of them had a SHEEP that fell [future] into a PIT on the SABBATH...
 - Even though it would NOT kill the sheep - they could WAIT until the NEXT day...
 - NONE of them would hesitate to WORK - and get their SHEEP out of the pit...
 - Because SHEEP cost MONEY - they were EXPENSIVE!
- Doing Good... vs. 12
 - Of how much more value then is a man than a sheep?
 - Therefore it is lawful to do good on the Sabbath!
 - The obvious answer then the QUESTION - can you HEAL on the SABBATH...
 - YES it is lawful [ἔξεστιν] to do GOOD - because a MAN is far more VALUABLE than a sheep...
 - But Jesus was not done - and asked the PHARISEES what they thought - **Luke 6:9**
 - If Jesus had the POWER to HELP - and did NOT help - would that be GOOD or EVIL...
 - The PHARISEES refused to answer - **Mark 3:4**
- Anger...
 - **Mark 3:5** - "[Jesus] looked at them with anger - grieved by the hardness of their hearts."
 - In their attempt to follow their RULES - the religious leaders had lost sight of LOVE...
 - They would leave a man to SUFFER - rather than let Jesus HEAL...
 - Yet His anger was tempered by His grief - because of the hardness of their hearts...
 - It was their RULES that blinded them - made them HARD hearted...
 - They thought they were serving God by NOT healing a man who was suffering!
 - There was a pastor of a large church who put in NEW carpets...
 - The first Sunday some of the elders put up a sign - NO entrance without shoes...
 - Because many of the POOR that were coming to church - were barefoot...
 - When the pastor arrived - he was FURIOUS - rip OUT the carpet...
 - If a new carpet was going to KEEP people from God - he did NOT want the carpet!

- Sadly there are MANY churches today who THINK they are serving God...
- But all of their RULES do NOT bring people to Jesus - they keep them away...
- Because people do NOT need to be told what to do...

- People need to meet the God who can give them the power to do it!
- o 3rd - Healing on the Sabbath... vs. 13
 - Then He said to the man: Stretch out your hand.
 - And he stretched it out - and it was restored as whole as the other!
 - Jesus commanded [imperative] the man to stretch out his withered hand - and made it whole...
 - In total Jesus healed SEVEN times on the Sabbath - He did it to make a point...
 - Jesus did not come to FOLLOW the rules of MEN - He came to SAVE them!
 - Many in the CHURCH have gotten lost in TRADITIONS and RULES...
 - They go to Church on Sunday [maybe even twice a week]
 - They take communion every month - they read their Bibles and pray...
 - But never stop to CONSIDER why do they do all these things - they have FORGOTTEN Jesus...
 - The question needs to be asked - why are we here this morning...
 - Are we coming to church because we believe it is what we MUST do...
 - Or are we here because we desire to get to KNOW our savior!
- o 4th - Pushed too far... vs. 14
 - Then the Pharisees went out and plotted against Him - how they might destroy Him!
 - The PHARISEES left the CHURCH [synagogue] - and gathered together to PLOT...
 - How they might [subjunctive] be able to DESTROY [ἀπόλλυμι] Jesus...
 - This might seem like an EXTREME reaction to HEALING a man...
 - But Jesus was threatening the very CORE of their power...
 - The RULES of the PHARISEES were how they CONTROLLED the lives men...
 - And Jesus was bringing a message that could set men FREE from their RULES!
 - Too many churches seem to live by the LAW...
 - Pastors from pulpits who tell the people listening the RULES they need to live by...
 - Sadly the motive of many of these pastors is CONTROL...
 - Because the one who makes the RULES - has power over those who FOLLOW them...
 - But the message of the Gospel has the power to set us FREE!
 - **John 8:36** - "If the Son makes you free - you shall be free indeed."