

KINGDOM COME

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When Mercy Confronts Religion

- The world is full of the evidence of sin.
- Jesus is dealing with a conflict between himself and the Pharisees over the Sabbath.
- Pharisees – religious and political group. Supreme court.
- Sabbath – God made the world and rested. Gave a day for us to rest and enjoy God’s presence.

Matthew 12:9 He went on from there and entered their synagogue.

- Not the same day.
- They go to a place as they travel where these pharisees have ownership and authority
- Jesus goes seeking them out
- God is not afraid to step into your space

Matthew 12:10 And a man was there with a withered hand. And they asked him, “Is it lawful to heal on the Sabbath?”—so that they might accuse him.

- They asked, “Is it lawful to heal on the Sabbath?” not because they cared about him, but because they wanted to trap and accuse Jesus.
- This was a real man, not a fictional story.
- There are some cultural texts (not in scripture), that if true, tell us that this man actually approached Jesus and asked to be healed because his hand was dead.
- Based on the cultural text: No blood or function. He was a stone mason and wanted his health back so he didn’t have to beg in shame.

Matthew 12:11-12 11 He said to them, “Which one of you who has a sheep, if it falls into a pit on the Sabbath, will not take hold of it and lift it out? 12 Of how much more value is a man than a sheep! So it is lawful to do good on the Sabbath.”

- They created a rule that once said you couldn’t save an animal on the sabbath.
- Animals were a huge part of the economy.
- It affected their finances.
- So, they made an exception.
- Legalism makes people selective. Strict on others, soft on self.

- “It is lawful to do good” In other words: If you have an opportunity to do good, do good.
- Obey God today

Matthew 12:13 Then he said to the man, “Stretch out your hand.” And the man stretched it out, and it was restored, healthy like the other.

- His grace follows His commands

Matthew 12:14-16 14 But the Pharisees went out and conspired against him, how to destroy him. 15 Jesus, aware of this, withdrew from there. And many followed him, and he healed them all 16 and ordered them not to make him known.

- Matthew quotes Isaiah 42 so that his Jewish audience can understand that Jesus is the messiah

Matthew 12:17-21 17 This was to fulfill what was spoken by the prophet Isaiah: 18 “Behold, my servant whom I have chosen, my beloved with whom my soul is well pleased. I will put my Spirit upon him, and he will proclaim justice to the Gentiles. 19 He will not quarrel or cry aloud, nor will anyone hear his voice in the streets; 20 a bruised reed he will not break, and a smoldering wick he

will not quench, until he brings justice to victory; 21 and in his name the Gentiles will hope.”

- God is pleased with him.
- The triunity of God – father, son and spirit.
- Gentiles – us.
- He will not argue with foolish people in the street.
- Reed and wick – he will compassionately care for the broken and not abuse them.
- He will bring justice and win and gentiles (us) will have hope.