



THE GOSPEL OF  
MATTHEW



# Doing Good on the Sabbath

Matthew 12:9–14



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<sup>9</sup> He went on from there and entered their synagogue. <sup>10</sup> 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. <sup>11</sup> 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? <sup>12</sup> Of how much more value is a man than a sheep! So it is lawful to do good on the Sabbath.”



## Matthew 12:9–14

<sup>13</sup> Then he said to the man, “Stretch out your hand.” And the man stretched it out, and it was restored, healthy like the other. <sup>14</sup> But the Pharisees went out and conspired against him, how to destroy him.



## 1. The life-sucking laws of legalism (12:9–10)

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## 1 Kings 13:4

**Jeroboam stretched out his hand... saying, "Seize him."  
And his hand, which he stretched out against him,  
dried up, so that he could not draw it back to himself.**



# Rabbinic Traditions Prohibiting Medical Care for Non-Fatal Conditions

*(Chuck Quarles)*

giving oral medicine

mixing medicines

preparing or tying bandages

inducing vomiting

setting a broken limb

popping a dislocated joint back in place

pouring cool water over a break or dislocation  
to reduce swelling and pain

cutting open an abscess (unless life-threatening)



The elaboration of details is intended to leave nothing to chance, so that no one can inadvertently come anywhere near violating the law itself. Some rabbis spoke about this as “putting up a fence around the law.”

— R. T. France



“...danger to life overrides the prohibitions of the Sabbath.”

— rabbi Mattiah ben Harash



## 2. The life-giving heart of God (12:11–12)

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## Proverbs 12:10

The righteous cares about his animal's health.



### 3. The healing word of Jesus (12:13)

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## 4. The coming cross of Christ (12:14)

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- Do I dissect situations without delighting in mercy?
- Do I treat the world around me more like a courtroom or a hospital?
- Will I live a Sabbath life under the Lord of rest?



*Father, I Know That All My Life*  
Anna Waring (1850)

Father, I know that all my life  
is portioned out for me;  
the changes that are sure to come  
I do not fear to see:  
I ask thee for a present mind,  
intent on pleasing thee.



*Father, I Know That All My Life*  
Anna Waring (1850)

I would not have the restless will  
that hurries to and fro,  
seeking for some great thing to do  
or secret thing to know;  
I would be treated as a child,  
and guided where to go.



*Father, I Know That All My Life*  
Anna Waring (1850)

I ask thee for the daily strength,  
to none that ask denied,  
a mind to blend with outward life,  
while keeping at thy side,  
content to fill a little space,  
if thou be glorified.



*Father, I Know That All My Life*  
Anna Waring (1850)

In service which thy will appoints  
there are no bonds for me;  
my secret heart is taught the truth  
that makes thy children free;  
a life of self-renouncing love  
is one of liberty.



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