

Matthew 12.1-21

Resting in the Risen Lord

Matthew Reveals the LORD Jesus Christ – RISEN to Receive All Authority

Read Resurrection Event in ch 28 – Series thru Gospel of Matthew ch 12

ALL of Matthew / NT Written from PERSPECTIVE of Resurrection

Ask Easter Morning – Who is this Risen King that calls us to FOLLOW Him?

Story of His First Followers walking with Him in the land of Galilee...

v. 1 At that time Jesus went through the grainfields on the Sabbath. His disciples were hungry, and they began to pluck heads of grain and to eat.

Matt describes INNOCENT Act – Take advantage OT Provision of GLEANING

Farmer should NOT HARVEST Edges of FIELD – POOR > Basic GRANOLA

v. 2 But when the Pharisees saw it, they said to him, “Look, your disciples are doing what is not lawful to do on the Sabbath.”

Pharisees ELITE Special FORCES among Jewish Religious Leaders

Key Audience in Ch – either Speaking, Listening, or Maneuvering against Jesus

Pharisees – Already Realized – Teeth on EDGE - UNDERWEAR is in a TWIT

Hard to IMAGINE – For them SABBATH Keeping – Matter of Life & Death

Some Justification for their Concern about Sabbath – 4th Commandment

Remember the Sabbath day by keeping it holy. Six days you shall labor and do all your work, but the seventh day is a Sabbath to the Lord your God. On it you shall not do any work... the Lord blessed the Sabbath day and made it holy.

Exodus 20:8–11

SABBATH intended by GOD to be a BLESSING Not a BURDEN

A GIFT to make Israel more HOLY/ PROMISE of JOYS of WORLD to COME

Passage NOT about What Happens on Sabbath but WHO is makes the RULES

SABBATH – Important way for JEWISH Leaders to control COMMUNITY
 TONGA – No Beach, No Basketball, No Bike Riding, NOT EVEN Shopping!
 Ask Tongans – if they Enjoy PRAISING God All Day on Sundays
 SOME say AMEN! – Many say Longest Day of Week – PRISON HOUSE!

Pharisees Added Man's Regulations to God's Law - Terrible forms of Legalism

“the rules about the Sabbath...are as mountains hanging by a hair, for the teaching of Scripture is scanty but the rules are many” M Hagigah 1:8

The law said that one was not to travel on the Sabbath -Exodus 16 Fair enough!

“But what constitutes traveling?”

Pharisees: Sabbath day's journey, roughly 1000 meters

A man could walk that far on the Sabbath, but if he went farther, it was sin.

If Rope tied across End of your Street, then Whole Street technically 1 House

You could then Walk 1000 meters Beyond the Rope!

If you Leave Food somewhere on Friday night, Sabbath walk there for Breakfast Meal there - technically establishing a new home – walk 1000 meters beyond that

Clever Person could walk halfway across Palestine

The law forbade work. You're out Walking. You Spit. Is that work? Answer:

Depends on what Happens to Spit.

HITS Soft Dirt and makes a Slight Furrow, then it is Plowing > It is Work

If it hits a Rock, No FURROW, then No Work is Done

That's why people here SPIT on SIDEWALK – It is NOT Sabbath Breaking

PLEASING God depended on PROPER DIRECTION of your SPIT

Just 2 of 39 Categories of Work prohibited on the Sabbath Pharisees Established

Jesus Disciples were Hungry - Pick some Heads of Grain –
 Rub in Hands to Separate the Grain from Chaff - Eat the Grain

By plucking grain they were guilty of *reaping*.

By rubbing it in their hands they were guilty of *threshing*.

By blowing off the chaff they were guilty of *winnowing*.

By the total of those acts they were guilty of *preparing a meal*

All of which was forbidden.

The simple Sabbath command mutated into something wholly un-Scriptural.
 What started as an amoeba of devotion centered on one's use of time in relation
 to one's worship of God devolved...into this monstrous mutation of Jewish
 political pride. Douglas Sean O'Donnell

Some REJECT Christ and Church – Place of Silly, Ridiculous RULES!

Some Visitors DREADED Coming Today – Preacher tell you How Bad you Are!

1. Sabbath of Joy

Jesus – AUTHOR of Commandments – CLARIFIES Law's Spirit & Intention
 FOLLOWING God is Decision made from INSIDE OUT – Not Imposed by Law

vs. 3,4 He said to them, “Have you not read what David did when he was hungry,
 and those who were with him: how he entered the house of God and ate the bread
 of the Presence, which it was not lawful for him to eat nor for those who were
 with him, but only for the priests?”

How did Jesus answer? NOT BY TIT for TAT LEGAL Argument

Tells Story of when David DID – recorded 1 Samuel 21

“Have you not read... Like asking MATH Professor – Do you know $2 + 2$??

Jesus MORE than Carpenter's Son from an OBSCURE VILLAGE

PLANTED every FOREST and PLACED every STAR in the Endless SKY

David Anointed to be King over Israel – Saul still King wants to Kill David

Fled to priestly town Nob - No FOOD – asked Priest eat “consecrated bread”

Anointed, ATTACKED King David ate Temple Bread – Shared with his Men

REBUKE “haven’t you read” – Of Course, MANY TIMES – Not Seen POINT

David’s Need that Moment Superseded Normal Rules for Bread of Priests

PRIESTS broke LETTER of the Law to UPHOLD its TRUE SPIRIT

Law was given to Help People Not Hinder Them

David was allowed to BREACH Sabbath Law for EMERGENCY

Pharisees wonder – “So Jesus are YOU claiming to be like Great King David?”

ABSOLUTELY NOT – Jesus claims to be FAR GREATER > David’s LORD!

v. 5 Or have you not read in the Law how on the Sabbath the priests in the temple profane the Sabbath and are guiltless?

Case of priests who were working in Temple Only in Matthew > Jewish Gospel

Temple of Paramount Importance to Jews > Work of Priests on Sabbath

Ex. PASTOR who is WORKING on SUNDAY

PROJECTIONIST – Every EYE goes there SPLIT SECOND Delay

PROJECTIONIST – “Hard to ENJOY Sermons” No Worries, No One Does!

PRIESTS Work on Sabbath – Dress Up in Priestly Garments

WALK to Temple – LIGHT Candles – Gather Wood – Build Fire – Make Bread

Not Guilty of Breaking Sabbath – Temple Work trumps Sabbath Rest

Jesus > Some work took Precedence even over Sabbath Laws

1 Greater than Temple HERE > His Work MORE Impt than Sabbath Regulations

HIS Kingdom SUPERSEDES Old Testament ANTICIPATIONS

Pharisees wondering – So NOW you Village Boy! – think Greater than Priests?
Absolutely Not – v. 6 I tell you, something greater than the temple is here.

GREATER than WHOLE Temple and ALL the Priests who serve There
TEMPLE – Place to Meet God // Jesus IS Temple > God who came to MEET Us
Jesus is GREAT HIGH PRIEST – both MAKES Sacrifice and IS the Sacrifice

Great News of Easter – Jesus Christ DIED & ROSE Again to make us FREE
Free from SIN, SELVES, SATAN – Slavery of Trying to become Good Enough
We're NOT – Good News > gives His Righteousness to US – Free & Forgiven
EASTER: Good News of GREAT JOY – Resurrection we can be Right with God

...us who believe in him who raised from the dead Jesus our Lord, who was delivered up for our trespasses and raised for our justification. Romans 4.24,25

2. Sympathy of Jesus

v. 7 And if you had known what this means, 'I desire mercy, and not sacrifice,' you would not have condemned the guiltless.

One of Jesus' FAVORITE VERSES – He quotes it Several Times in Gospels...

"I desire mercy, not sacrifice." Hosea 6:6

"If I ... have not love, I gain nothing." 1 Corinthians 13:3

Loving God without Loving People God Made IS Unacceptable to Holy God

Mercy – God does not give us what we deserve.

Grace – God does give us what we do not deserve.

SILLY Sabbath Rules of PHARISEES were OPPRESSIVE Burden to Bear

"My yoke is easy and my burden is light" Matthew 11:30

Very Next vs: 1 “At that time Jesus went through the grainfields on the Sabbath”

v. 8 For the Son of Man is lord of the Sabbath

BOSS Man of Sabbath, Not Pharisees – Jesus sets RULES of SABBATH

Here He goes AGAIN applying Title of Daniel 7 – SON of MAN to Himself

Son of Man who receives KINGDOM Authority, Glory, Honor, and Praise

Maybe when HEARD Scripture read expected SCOLDED Working on Sunday

Doing Homework – Watching Movies – Checking Facebook – Sleeping In!

MAY be Issues you NEED to Deal with in your RELATIONSHIP with GOD

Real PURPOSE of Passage > PROCLAIM Greatness of Jesus Christ

RULER over every Tradition, every Nation, every Season, and every PERSON

LAW – Jew’s Greatest National Treasure

DAVID – Jew’s Greatest King

TEMPLE – Very House of Jewish God

Jesus CLAIMS to be GREATER than ALL of them!

his Son...was declared to be the Son of God in power according to the Spirit of holiness by his resurrection from the dead, Jesus Christ our Lord, through whom we have received grace Romans 1.3-5

vs. 9,10 He went on from there and entered their synagogue. And a man was there with a withered hand.

THEIR Synagogue – Jesus NOT feel at HOME in this House of HYPOCRISY

THEIR Synagogue – Seen POOR Man every Sabbath – Never REALLY Seen!

On another Sabbath, he entered the synagogue and was teaching, and a man was there whose right hand was withered. Luke 6.6

Matthew includes Story HERE > Jesus’ Sabbath Interpretation

vs. 10,11 And they asked him, “Is it lawful to heal on the Sabbath?”—so that they might accuse him. 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?”

Pharisees permitted Rescue of Trapped Sheep on Sabbath > esp their Own

But Jesus could NOT Rescue MAN with Shriveled Hand!!

Is a sheep more valuable than a human being?

Bizarre Forces of Animal Equality Today – Save the Whales, Abort our Babies!

vs. 12,13 Of how much more value is a man than a sheep! So it is lawful to do good on the Sabbath.” Then he said to the man, “Stretch out your hand.” And the man stretched it out, and it was restored, healthy like the other.

Jesus OUT of His Way to Provoke Incident – Man Not Dying – Wait to Monday!

Boldly Heals Man w/ Withered Hand on Sabbath, In Very Teeth of His Enemies

It is always right to do good, even and especially on the Sabbath.

Jesus shows Mercy to Handicapped Man > NOT ASK, NOT EXPECT

NOTHING is said about MAN’S FAITH – or Lack of Faith – Not About him

1 of Few MIRACLES @ Jesus’ INTIATIVE – Just Because He IS MERCIFUL

We LOVE because HE FIRST Loved US

Jesus CARES for YOU this Morning – you Might Not KNOW He is Looking!

Healing of Damaged Man Proves that Jesus’ Interpretation of Sabbath Right

God VALIDATES Jesus’ Lordship over SABBATH by HEALING

His acts of Mercy on Sabbath were Right > Approved by Miracle Power of God

v. 14 But the Pharisees went out and conspired against him, how to destroy him.

BESTED by Jesus but REFUSED to Receive BLESSING of Serving Jesus

Now Matthew FOCUSES on Fierce Opposition

Now BEGIN Scheme to have Meddlesome Rabbi put to Death
 1st in Matthew > Want to KILL Him, Sabbath Breaking Not Capital Offense

CONVERSATION about KILLING Jesus begins in whispers Here
 Grows Louder thru Gospel till Crowds will shout “Crucify Him, Crucify Him!”

How terrible this was! Here were men who were being punctilious in the observance of their interpretation of God’s law. They were as religious as religious people get. But because Jesus was not conforming to their Sabbath regulations, they began to hatch a plot to kill him. We should learn from this how horrible it is to have a religion of rules and ceremonies when the heart is actually far from God

James Boice

v. 15 Jesus, aware of this, withdrew from there.

SON of Man IN CONTROL – THEN and ALWAYS - Sovereign over Time

Would Die – THESE Enemies would Kill Him – On His Terms and Timetable

Jesus: “I lay down my life that I may take it up again. No one takes it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord. I have authority to lay it down, and I have authority to take it up again”

John 10.17,18

vs. 15,16 And many followed him, and he healed them all

Even when ENEMIES Plot His Death – He still gives LIFE Eternal, Abundant
 Did NOT want to FUEL the Religious Hysteria & Confusion of CROWDS

Came to make Atonement for the Sin of his People

Would NOT be Their MARTYR but GOD’S GIFT of MERCY to US!

His OWN Hands would be WOUNDED – NAILED to Cross for Redemption

3. Song of Justice

v. 17 This was to fulfill what was spoken by the prophet Isaiah:

MINISTRY of Jesus was FULFILLMENT of Promised Servant Songs of Isaiah

Matthew sums Up WHO Jesus Was and WHAT He had Come to Do

OLD Testament Scripture is KEY to RIGHTLY Understand JESUS
 JESUS is the KEY to Rightly Understand Old Testament Scripture

he was raised on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures 1 Corinthians 15.4

Matthew quotes well-known messianic passage from Isaiah chapter 42

1 of 4 SERVANT Songs – Describe Jesus 700 years before His Incarnation

LONGEST Quote from OT in Gospel of Matthew

v. 18 “Behold, my servant whom I have chosen, my beloved with whom my soul is well pleased.

CONTRAST between CONSPIRACY of HATRED against Jesus
 & CALM HUMILITY of Jesus

Jesus DISCIPLES – Not His Family – were His CLOSEST Community
 MISSION INAGURATED at 1st Coming > CONSUMATED at 2nd Coming

Verses contain FOUR Great Predictions:

1. The Messiah will bring justice to the earth

v. 18 I will put my Spirit upon him, and he will proclaim justice to the Gentiles.

2. He will go about His Work Quietly and Humbly NOT Proud and Pompous

v. 19 He will not quarrel or cry aloud, nor will anyone hear his voice in the streets

3. Jesus will not Trample on the Weak or those who are Poor in Spirit

v. 20 a bruised reed he will not break, and a smoldering wick he will not quench, until he brings justice to victory

4. JESUS the Messiah will bring Salvation to the Gentiles

v. 21 in his name the Gentiles will hope

1st C Jews wanted Messiah to Drive Out Romans, establish Jewish State

Benefits of His Atonement were offered to Jew and Gentile

The WEAK and VULNERABLE were Special Objects of Jesus MISSION
Jesus gives JUSTICE to those SNAPPED OFF or SNUFFED OUT by World

Those we think GOOD for Nothing – Jesus sees as Good for SOMETHING

Those the World THROW'S AWAY – Jesus FINDS & RECYCLES

Justice: Proclaimed Now thru Church, will be Powerfully Revealed 2nd Coming

Today is the day of God's grace, and we live because Jesus is the Savior.

Jesus has RISEN to give GRACE and MERCY of Salvation to all who Receive

Jesus will RETURN to bring JUDGMENT & WRATH to all who REJECT Him

He alone Saves, Strengthens, and Keeps all who will Repent and Turn to Him

Church of Risen Jesus gathers on this Coronation Day to Worship Him

RISEN Jesus Christ – CRUCIFIED KING – Proclaimed in Every Nation Today

This Servant will never rest in his nonviolent zeal until he brings God's great verdict of perfect justice and righteous judgment to earth. The Servant is... nonviolent but not noninvolved, gentle but passionate for God's truth – a truth we are promised he will one day bring successfully to victory. This victory is won at Jesus' awful cross, is proclaimed at his triumphant resurrection, is worked out in history in his reign at God's right hand, and will be consummated at his glorious judgment. Douglas Sean O'Donnell

Jesus Christ has come for our LOST and DYING WORLD with Solid HOPE

vs. 20.21 he brings justice to victory; and in his name the Gentiles will hope.”

Matthew 12:¹ At that time Jesus went through the grainfields on the Sabbath. His disciples were hungry, and they began to pluck heads of grain and to eat. ²But when the Pharisees saw it, they said to him, “Look, your disciples are doing what is not lawful to do on the Sabbath.” ³He said to them, “Have you not read what David did when he was hungry, and those who were with him: ⁴how he entered the house of God and ate the bread of the Presence, which it was not lawful for him to eat nor for those who were with him, but only for the priests? ⁵Or have you not read in the Law how on the Sabbath the priests in the temple profane the Sabbath and are guiltless? ⁶I tell you, something greater than the temple is here. ⁷And if you had known what this means, ‘I desire mercy, and not sacrifice,’ you would not have condemned the guiltless. ⁸For the Son of Man is lord of the Sabbath.” ⁹He went on from there and entered their synagogue. ¹⁰And 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. ¹¹He 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? ¹²Of how much more value is a man than a sheep! So it is lawful to do good on the Sabbath.” ¹³Then he said to the man, “Stretch out your hand.” And the man stretched it out, and it was restored, healthy like the other. ¹⁴But the Pharisees went out and conspired against him, how to destroy him. ¹⁵Jesus, aware of this, withdrew from there. And many followed him, and he healed them all ¹⁶and ordered them not to make him known. ¹⁷This 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. ¹⁹He will not quarrel or cry aloud, nor will anyone hear his voice in the streets; ²⁰a bruised reed he will not break, and a smoldering wick he will not quench, until he brings justice to victory; ²¹and in his name the Gentiles will hope.”