

## Jesus Mic Drops the Pharisees (Part 2)

### REVIEW Matthew 12:1-8

In Matthew 12:1-8, we saw the Pharisees attack Jesus. They scorned Him saying “Your disciples are plucking corn on the Sabbath. This is work and your breaking the Law”. Jesus demonstrated his superior knowledge of scripture and showed how the Pharisees were distorting the scripture and the Law.

The Pharisees wanted to discredit Jesus in front of everybody and show He was a Biblical Lawbreaker. Jesus answered this challenge. In Matt 12:3-8 (only six short verses) ....

1. He exposes the Pharisees as hypocrites in the way they live.
2. He exposes how the Pharisees distort scripture for their own benefit.
3. He reinterprets the scripture as it should be interpreted.
4. He rebukes them for not understanding what scripture meant about God’s LOVE, MERCY, and GENEROSITY
5. He shows that letting someone go hungry in the name of rules does not reflect who God is.
6. He reemphasizes that JESUS IS GOD IN HUMAN FORM.
7. He reminds them just who they are attacking. GOD made the Sabbath and the Law so GOD has authority over it all and Jesus was GOD in human form.
8. LESSON: HUMAN NEED is to be placed above any religious observances, rules, and traditions”

### Lesson: Matthew 12:9-13

After the Mic-Drop Jesus gave the Pharisees in their attack on Him about Sabbath-Labor, the Pharisees were put in their place and their hatred toward Him began to mount even more. Jesus was exposing their fakeness to the people. The people were loving Jesus more and more. Tensions were mounting between the Pharisees/Sadducees and Jesus.

Jesus leaves the Pharisees after the encounter and heads into the synagogue.

#### **What was the synagogue? What happened in the synagogue in those days?**

- Jews gathered in the synagogue for instruction and worship
- Jews studied the Law (Old Testament) and discussed the Law
- It was not the same as the Jerusalem temple. The Jerusalem temple focused on sacrifices for sin.
- Synagogue services included prayers, reading of scriptures aloud for all to hear, and usually a sermon explaining scripture.
- Pagan Gentiles also came to the synagogue to learn about the Hebrew God of the Bible.
- There were synagogues in many major cities of the New Testament and the disciples taught in them even after Jesus death, resurrection, and ascension.

**Why would Jesus and His disciples want to go in there to teach?** What better place to come and teach than the place the smartest, most highly esteemed Jewish scholars hung out? What better way to spread the gospel quickly and efficiently than to get other teachers on board?

- Jesus was instituting a new way of living and spirituality meant to carry them through the hard times ahead.
- Jesus came to show them through teaching and signs (miracles) that He really was the Messiah that was prophesized about from the beginning of time.
- Jesus needed to correct any false views and teachings of the scripture.

**Did everyone accept what Jesus taught in the synagogues? Did everyone accept what the disciples taught after Jesus death?** Absolutely not. Jesus and the disciples debated with many well-learned Jews at the synagogue. Jesus and His disciples used scripture, prophecy, and miracles to defend themselves and their beliefs but many would still just not accept the gift offered for many different reasons.

**What do you think some of the reasons may be the people just would not accept what Jesus offered and taught? Do you think the reasons of those people 2,000 years ago really differs any than why people in 2020 would not accept what Christ offers?**

### MATTHEW 12:10

**Lets set the encounter up. What is Jesus asked in Matthew 12:10?** Once again, the Pharisees are completely obsessed over the Sabbath and all their rules and regulations. They were threatened by Jesus revealing who they really were, hypocrites, and their fault interpretation of the bible. The focus is again on breaking the Sabbath.

There is a man with a withered (shriveled) hand. Jesus is asked if it is lawful to heal on the Sabbath, obviously referring to this man with a withered hand.

**What is the difference between how the Pharisees approached Jesus previously about the Sabbath and this at this encounter? Compare Matthew 12:2 and Matthew 12:10?**

- **Matthew 12:2:** They attacked Jesus directly the first time and Jesus put them down using their own scripture. They were left looking like fools because Jesus was right and they were wrong.
- **Matthew 12:10:** This time, the Pharisees were a little more cautious about confronting Jesus. They may not admit it, but they had already learned Jesus was wiser in scripture than anyone they had ever encountered. Instead of directly attacking Jesus as in Matthew 12:2, they tried to set Him up. Instead of saying "You did this!", they asked "What would you do...". (*Maybe they were protecting themselves from being called out this time "just in case" Jesus gave a good answer.*)

**Why is the seventh day deemed the "Sabbath Day" per OT law? Let's read Exodus 20:9-10.** "Six days shall you 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". **Is this because God did not have the ability to create everything in one simultaneous instance? Did God need "rest"? Was he tired after each day's work so he could not continue?** This had nothing to do with ability. God could had instantaneously created everything if He wanted to. God **chose** to do it this way as a lesson and example to the Israelites.

**Read Exodus 20:9-10 carefully. WHOSE work was not to be done on the Sabbath?** The work forbidden by the Sabbath Law is "**your work**". This is talking about mankind's normal everyday business and pursuit of pleasures. It is talking about the kind of works that the Israelites do that have nothing to do

with serving or glorifying God. God wanted them to rest, but to rest in Him and His glory and worship. Working for God's purpose is a form of Worship

**Why were they to cease from their own activities and work on the Sabbath?** So they could devote time, attention, and WORK to glorifying and honoring God. The Law says nothing about ceasing **ALL WORK** on the Sabbath, it says for them to cease their **OWN** self-serving work on this day.

**Think about our last lesson. Were the disciples working for themselves when they were travelling and stopped to eat some corn?** The disciples were travelling around teaching and preaching with Jesus, and the Pharisees condemned them because they plucked some corn to eat because they were hungry saying that was a form of work. Even if the disciples were "working" per say, they were **WORKING TO SPREAD THE GOSPEL**. **Do you see how the Pharisees distorted the scripture and purpose of the Sabbath?**

**Why were the Pharisees actually the ones breaking the Old Testament law?** Deuteronomy 4:2 will give you the answer. The Pharisees added more and more rules than what was in the Old Testament Law while also distorting the scripture they did actually pull from the Bible.

**We keep talking about the OT law pertaining to the Sabbath Day. What about the NT law pertaining to the Sabbath day? What about on this side of the cross, the side with Jesus Christ on it who lives inside of each of us? Where does Jesus say we find our Sabbath rest?**

#### **MATTHEW 12:11-12**

**Jesus answers them with a question right back at them. Before reading Matt 12:11-12, think about this.** Jesus used scripture in our last lesson to mic-drop the Pharisees. This time He uses their **VERY OWN CUSTOMS**. The common Jewish way of reasoning is "from the lesser to the greater". In other words, if it true of the lesser, then it is certainly true of the greater".

#### **EXAMPLES of "from the lesser to the greater"**

- If it's good to make a "B" on a test, then it's obviously even better to make an "A" without having to implicitly say it. It's a given. If it's true of the lesser, then it's even more true of the greater.
- If it's good eat one healthy meal a day, then it's obviously (without saying) even better to eat three healthy meals a day.
- This was a common Jewish way of thinking during those times.

**Can you tie in Jesus' response in Matt 12:11-12 with using their own way of reasoning to show them the error of their ways?**

**The Pharisees are trying to set Jesus up and make him look like a Lawbreaker. So what does the actual OT Law say about healing on the Sabbath?** The Jews taught that healing was permitted on the Sabbath, but it had to be life-threatening situation. The Bible teaches that healing on the Sabbath was permitted whether it be life-threatening or not.

**Jesus knows they are distorting scripture again, but instead of directly saying they are wrong, how does He answer the question?** Jesus uses their own Jewish custom of "from the lesser to the greater". If a sheep fell into a pit and couldn't get out, the sheep still wouldn't be in a life-threatening situation

but the Pharisees and Jesus both knew they would pull that sheep out even though it was on the Sabbath. It's the right thing to do!

Jesus then puts the Pharisees on the spot and asks them if they think a human life is more important than a sheep's life. Imagine all the people around waiting in silence, staring at the Pharisees. The bible doesn't record a response so possibly the Pharisees just sat there unable to answer. If they said a sheep's life is more important, the onlookers would see the evil in them. If they said a human life was more important, then they would be exposed again and would be admitting they are wrong and Jesus is right. Jesus put them in a rock and a hard place.

**This comes down to this question...Should rules and regulations ever keep you from doing God's good work? Are good deeds a form of worship to God?** Doing God's work is a form of worship of God. It makes even more sense, not less, to do good deeds on the day The Israelites set aside to focus on worshipping God!

### **Matthew 12:13**

**What happens in Matthew 12:13?** There's not much to say here. In the events we have discussed last week and this week, Jesus has displayed superior, never before seen, knowledge of the Bible, corrected the Pharisees false doctrines, and boldly claimed to be God in human form.

**What would be the final, best way to prove to the Pharisees and everyone watching that He was who He claimed to be...God?** A miracle. A supernatural act that defies everything we know. The man stretched out his shriveled, decrepit hand and it was healed. This was accomplished with a single thought, a single act of will, by Jesus. A miracle!!!

### **MATTHEW 12:14**

**Even after all this, how did the Pharisees respond?** They met to figure out how they could kill Him

### **LIFE APPLICATION**

**The Pharisees and many other people saw Jesus perform tons of miracles and even raise the dead. They saw Him do amazing things, teach amazing ways, and live a perfectly blameless, sinless life as no one else has ever done.**

**Some people now claim that if only God would show them that one miracle, perform that one act, and then they would believe. What do you think about that?** God has already performed a miraculous virgin birth, a miraculous life of supernatural acts, and a miraculous resurrection from the dead. Science and life itself points to miracles as scientists have no idea where the universe came from or how it got here. They cannot explain how life could arise from non-living chemicals aside it being a miracle. The world contains beauty and He peeks through in this beauty and within people's souls. He has accurately given us hundreds of prophecies that came about exactly as He said they would. He has given us a detailed account of the history of the first two humans and the ancestry after them, all the way to the Jesus Christ. This written ancestry spans thousands of years! The Holy Spirit works on people from the inside and they can feel His presence if they are willing to respond to Him.

**What more proof could he offer? What else would it take?** If someone rejects Christ, rejects the existence of God, the blame will ultimately only lie on that person, not God.

The first thing that matters in your witness is figuring out if that person that does not know Christ even really wants Him? If not, what is the thing that holds them back from the love of Christ and eternal salvation? What is the hurt or thing they are holding onto? Jesus came to bring forgiveness and salvation for the sick, not the healthy. How can you show them this?

Second, know that you do not save anyone. You can only pray for them and with them, answer questions and be a listening ear, and point them to the Scripture and Jesus Christ. The Holy Spirit has to do the final saving work.

### **LIFE APPLICATION #2**