

(1) TO BE A DISCIPLE
Unit 22: *The Sabbath and the Sign of Jonah*
Matthew 12:9-50

CONTINUITY FROM LAST SESSION (January 5, 2025)

1. Conflict over keeping the Sabbath Law (Rest body, Worship, Re-Create Family)
2. How many of you would be in trouble for “not keeping the Sabbath”? Why?
3. Sabbath Day purpose is a conduit for the Mercy of God to God’s People.

I. SABBATH MERCY TO MAN WITH A WITHERED HAND (Matthew 12:9-14)

MATTHEW 12:9-14 [9](#) He went on from there and entered their synagogue. [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. [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." [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. [14](#) But the Pharisees went out and conspired against him, how to destroy him.

1. SYNAGOGUE [συναγωγή – syn-a-go-gay] ... place of assembling together
2. Hand withering a result of tuberculoid leprosy
3. Sinful humans need mercy even more than sheep in a well.
4. (14) The first hint of Pharisees intent to destroy Jesus

III. JESUS IS GOD’S CHOSEN SERVANT (Matthew 12:15-21)

MATTHEW 12:15-21 [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. [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."

1. Jesus has the Holy Spirit (Comp. 12:18 with 12:15)
2. Jesus will avoid quarrels when possible (Comp. 12:19 with 12:15)
3. Jesus will not call attention to healing miracles (Comp. 12:19b with 12:15).
4. Jesus will be gentle with bruised and damaged lives (Compare 12:20 with 12:15b).
5. Jesus will bring justice to victory (Compare 12:20b with Pharisees Sabbath fog)

IV. THE SIN AGAINST THE HOLY SPIRIT (Matthew 12:22-32)

MATTHEW 12:22-32 [22](#) Then a demon-oppressed man who was blind and mute was brought to him, and he healed him, so that the man spoke and saw. [23](#) And all the people were amazed, and said, "Can this be the Son of David?" [24](#) But when the Pharisees heard it, they said, "It is only by Beelzebul, the prince of demons, that this man casts out demons." [25](#) Knowing their thoughts, he said to them, "Every kingdom divided against itself is laid waste, and no city or house divided against itself will stand. [26](#) And if Satan casts out Satan, he is divided against himself. How then will his kingdom stand? [27](#) And if I cast out demons by Beelzebul, by whom do your sons cast them out? Therefore they will be your judges. [28](#) But if it is by the Spirit of God that I cast out demons, then the kingdom of God has come upon you. [29](#) Or how can someone enter a strong man's house and plunder his goods, unless he first binds the strong man? Then indeed he may plunder his house. [30](#) Whoever is not with me is against me, and whoever does not gather with me scatters. [31](#) Therefore I tell you, every sin and blasphemy will be forgiven people, but the blasphemy against the Spirit will not be forgiven. [32](#) And whoever speaks a word against the Son of Man will be forgiven, but whoever speaks against the Holy Spirit will not be forgiven, either in this age or in the age to come.

1. Pharisees claim Jesus heals by Beelzebul's [Satan] power – not God's.
2. But Satan does not plunder the Satanic Kingdom (self-defeating)
3. No room for NEUTRALITY in one's attitude toward Jesus and the Call to Discipleship.
4. Blasphemy against the Holy Spirit will not be forgiven (Spirit causes saving faith).

V. A TREE IS KNOWN BY ITS FRUIT (Matthew 12:33-37)

MATTHEW 12:33-37 [33](#) "Either make the tree good and its fruit good, or make the tree bad and its fruit bad, for the tree is known by its fruit. [34](#) You brood of vipers! How can you speak good, when you are evil? For out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaks. [35](#) The good person out of his good treasure brings forth good, and the evil person out of his evil treasure brings forth evil. [36](#) I tell you, on the day of judgment people will give account for every careless word they speak, [37](#) for by your words you will be justified, and by your words you will be condemned."

1. This section is a CALL TO REPENTANCE and MERCY AVAILABILITY.
2. Every careless contradiction of the Christ brings one closer to final destruction.

VI. THE SIGN OF JONAH (Matthew 12:38-42)

MATTHEW 12:38-42 [38](#) Then some of the scribes and Pharisees answered him, saying, "Teacher, we wish to see a sign from you." [39](#) But he answered them, "An evil and adulterous generation seeks for a sign, but no sign will be given to it except the sign of the prophet Jonah. [40](#) For just as Jonah was three days and three nights in the belly of the great fish, so will the Son of Man be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth. [41](#) The men of Nineveh will rise up at the judgment with this generation and condemn it, for they repented at the preaching of Jonah, and behold, something greater than Jonah is here. [42](#) The queen of the South will rise up at the judgment with this generation and condemn it, for she came from the ends of the earth to hear the wisdom of Solomon, and behold, something greater than Solomon is here."

1. Jesus will go all the way into death ... and be 'vomited' on shore of resurrection.
2. Jesus is the SUFFERING SERVANT ANOINTED WITH THE SPIRIT who goes into death for human sin.

VII. THE RETURN OF THE UNCLEAN SPIRIT (Matthew 12:43-45)

MATTHEW 12:43-45 [43](#) "When the unclean spirit has gone out of a person, it passes through waterless places seeking rest, but finds none. [44](#) Then it says, 'I will return to my house from which I came.' And when it comes, it finds the house empty, swept, and put in order. [45](#) Then it goes and brings with it seven other spirits more evil than itself, and they enter and dwell there, and the last state of that person is worse than the first. So also will it be with this evil generation."

1. This refers to the SCRIBES AND PHARISEES – and unrepentant Israel.
2. It is sheer danger to contradict and reject the Christ.
3. Such people can be REINVADED and REPOSSESSED BY SATAN 7 times over

VIII. JESUS' MOTHER AND HIS BROTHERS (Matthew 12:46-50)

MATTHEW 12:46-50 [46](#) While he was still speaking to the people, behold, his mother and his brothers stood outside, asking to speak to him. [48](#) But he replied to the man who told him, "Who is my mother, and who are my brothers?" [49](#) And stretching out his hand toward his disciples, he said, "Here are my mother and my brothers! [50](#) For whoever does the will of my Father in heaven is my brother and sister and mother."

1. Even the immediate family of Jesus can be among those who contradict the Christ
2. **Matthew's point:** Jesus goes BASICALLY ALONE through contradiction, rejection, suffering and death – discouraged even by members of his own family.