

To Be a Disciple

Unit 21: *Jesus Is Lord of the Sabbath Day*

Matthew 12:1-42

January 5, 2024

CONTINUITY FROM LAST SESSION (December 22, 2024)

1. One way to CONTRADICT GOD is to *discredit his messengers* (John and Jesus).
2. Jesus and the Father are One and intimately connected,
3. Despite the rigors of discipleship, the yoke is easy and the burden is light.
4. There is no authentic discipleship without *engaged activity*.

I. JESUS IS LORD OF THE SABBATH (Matthew 12:1-8)

MATTHEW 12:1-8 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. 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." 3 He said to them, "Have you not read what David did when he was hungry, and those who were with him: 4 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? 5 Or have you not read in the Law how on the Sabbath the priests in the temple profane the Sabbath and are guiltless? 6 I tell you, something greater than the temple is here. 7 And if you had known what this means, 'I desire mercy, and not sacrifice,' you would not have condemned the guiltless. 8 For the Son of Man is lord of the Sabbath."

1. Key word is ... **MERCY** (give forgiveness and withhold punishment)
2. Hebrew *Shabbat* (שַׁבָּת): Means "a time of labor cessation or rest"
3. Sabbath Law required three things: Rest / Worship / Family Re-Creation
4. REAL MEANING: To provide humans with opportunity to receive God's mercy.

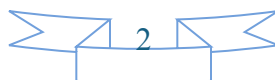
II. SABBATH LESSON PLAN VIA A WITHERED HAND (Matthew 12:9-14)

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. HEALING is not "work" nor a violation of Sabbath
2. Purpose of Sabbath Law is for GOD TO SHOW METRCY TO PEOPLE IN NEED.
3. Matthew records here FOR THE FIRST TIME the intention of the Pharisees.

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."



Five points revealing Jesus as the Chosen Servant of God (Isaiah 42:1-4)

1. Has the Holy Spirit
2. Avoids quarrels when possible
3. No draw attention to miracles
4. Gentle with bruised and damaged lives
5. Brings justice to victory

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

MATTHEW 12:22-32 [22](#) Then a demon-possessed 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. There is no room for NEUTRALITY in one's attitude toward Jesus and the Call to Discipleship.
2. Sin against Holy Spirit = when a person cuts himself off from the Holy Spirit, who alone can bring 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. Pharisees can still become "good trees" [Hope and mercy available]

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. Request is a total rejection of Jesus and His available MERCY and Call to Discipleship
2. Jesus will go all the way into bowels death ... and be 'vomited' on shore of resurrection.