

Matthew Chapter 12

Matthew 12:1

At that time Jesus went on the sabbath day through the corn; and his disciples were an hungered, and began to pluck the ears of corn, and to eat.

The Sabbath day is the seventh day of the week, corresponding to our Saturday. However, it begins at sunset on Friday and lasts until the followings unset. The Pharisees had burdened the Sabbath with a multitude of detailed observances that were not laid down in the Mosaic Law.

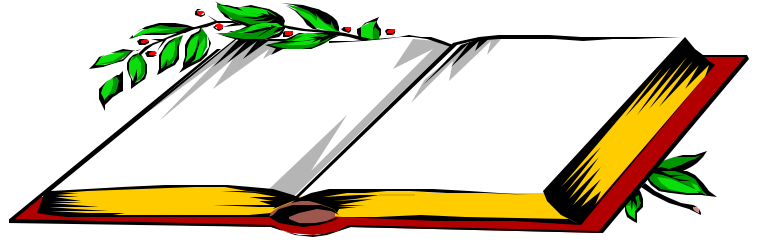
Matthew 12:2

But when the Pharisees saw it, they said unto him. Behold thy disciples do that which is not lawful to do upon the Sabbath day.

The Pharisees were one of the three sect of Judaism in the time of Christ. The name means separated by special works. The Pharisees were a religious group of people that lived by man's tradition. They served God on the outer appearance, but their hearts were far from Him.

Matthew 12:3

But he (Jesus) said unto them, have ye not read what David did, when he was an hungered, and they that were with him?



Blessed is he that readeth, and they that hear the words of this prophecy, and keep those things which are written therein: for the time is at hand.

When they came to Jesus with their traditions, Jesus answered them with the word of God by telling them, you study the law, haven't you read in the law about David and his companions.

Matthew 12:4

How he entered into the house of God, and did eat the showbread, which was not lawful for him to eat, neither for them which were with him, but only for the priests?

Jesus wasn't condoning disobedience to God's law, instead he was emphasizing discernment and compassion in enforcing the laws.

Matthew 12:5

Or have ye not read in the law, how that on the sabbath days, the priest in the temple profane the sabbath, and are blameless?

The Ten Commandments prohibit work on the Sabbath. The purpose of the Sabbath was to rest and to worship God, but the priest were allowed to work by performing sacrifices and conducting worship services. The priest did servile work on the Sabbath which caused them to profane it.

Matthew 12:6

But I say unto, That in this place is one greater than the temple.

The Pharisees were more concerned about the religious rituals, they missed the whole purpose of the Temple; to bring people to God.

Jesus justifies them by arguments, if the temple-service would justify what the priests did in their ministrations, the service of Christ would justify the disciples in what they did in their attendance and support. Jesus in the cornfield was greater than the temple.

Matthew 12:7

But if ye had known what this meaneth, I will have mercy, and not sacrifice; ye would not have condemned the guiltless. If they would have known the meaning of the scriptures, they would have known that He wanted them to have justice, mercy and faith, but because they didn't know scripture they were

Matthew Chapter 12

condoning the guiltless. In order to serve God in faith, we must have mercy towards others, justice, having moral and spiritual righteousness, we must love God, then we can love our neighbor.

Matthew 12:8

For the Son of man is Lord even of the sabbath day.

The Pharisees were more inclined of what was being committed on the Sabbath day rather than who created the day. Every day should be the Lord's day as Christians, its not about Him being your Lord on Sunday, but what about the rest of the week?

Matthew 12:9

And when he was departed thence, he went into their synagogue.

After instructing them who was the Lord of the Sabbath, He went into their synagogue to further teach them. He didn't debate or try to make them believe who He was. He knew who He was and who He belonged too. Jesus knew their teaching and understanding of the scriptures were in error. He was there to open their understanding, and He will do the same with us if we're willing to submit ourselves to Him.

Matthew 12:10

And behold, there was a man which had his hand withered. And they ask him, saying, Is it lawful to heal on the sabbath days? that they might accuse him.

The Pharisees tried to trick Jesus by asking Him if it was legal to heal on the Sabbath. So soon had they forgotten what He had told them about having mercy. They placed their laws above human need.

Matthew 12:11

And he said unto them, What man shall there be among you, that shall have one sheep and if it fall into a pit on the sabbath day, will he not lay hold on it, and lift it out?

Jesus was giving them an example of what they would do as shepherds. A good shepherd watches the sheep to make sure its safe, if one of their sheep would have fallen in a pit on the Sabbath, as good shepherds they would have rescued the sheep. Jesus used natural examples to give spiritual understanding.

Matthew 12:12

How much then is a man better than a sheep? Wherefore it is lawful to do well on the sabbath days.

Because the man had a need, it was lawful for Him to heal on the Sabbath. The man was much more than a sheep. Just as the man with the withered hand needed to be healed there are people today attending church coming and going with the same sickness, and disease they came in with; because the leaders are more concerned about how large the church is, or how many members they have, or how much money is collected rather than seeing and desiring the manifestation of the power of God moving in the church, bringing about healing and deliverance.

Matthew 12:13

Then said he to the man, Stretch forth thine hand. And he stretch it forth; and it was restored whole, like as the other.

Jesus already knew what the Pharisees was thinking and what they were trying to do, but He didn't let them intimidate Him. He told the man to stretch forth his hand, and it was healed immediately. When we begin to

submit ourselves to God and walk in obedience and faith, God will manifest Himself through us to heal the sick and diseased without taking hours and days for the person to receive healing. Nowhere in the bible does Jesus heal someone and it took hours or they had to come back so that they could continue their deliverance. We need the anointing and boldness of Jesus.

Matthew 12:14

Then the Pharisees went out, and held a council against him, how they might destroy him.

Jesus overruled the Pharisees authority. He probably brought them to shame because He didn't bow to their rules; and because of this they planned to destroy Him. They knew the power that He had and they wanted to find a way to put it under control or eliminate it.

Matthew 12:15

But when Jesus knew it, he withdrew himself from thence: and great multitudes followed him, and he healed them all.

There is nothing that goes on in a man's heart that Jesus doesn't know about. When they first thought the plan prior to discussing it with each other, Jesus already knew. Jesus didn't let their plans stop Him from showing compassion towards those that were in need of healing. He withdrew himself from their presence, but He continued to do the work He was sent to do. As we go through trials and tribulations, hurts, and different types of suffering, we must stay focus on completing the work God has sent us to do. We can't have a pity-party and stop doing a work for the Lord. When you're going through trials and tribulations, press through. What you're going through can be a blessing to someone else. Put someone else

we show concern for others, it places us in a position to receive from the Lord.

Matthew 12:16

And charged them that they should not make him known:

Jesus healed those that followed Him. He warned them not to say who He was. He knew because of jealousy the religious council were out to try to destroy Him. Sometimes it's not good to tell everyone what God is doing for you and through you, because if they have not been fully delivered, jealousy will begin to arise in them.

Matthew 12:17

That it might be fulfilled which was spoken by Isaiah the prophet saying,

God uses men and women to speak to His people. Whatever has been spoken by God no matter how long it takes for it to be manifested, His word shall come to pass. Isaiah the prophet has spoken over three hundred years prior to Jesus birth, the coming of His birth and death. He also spoke of God placing His spirit upon Jesus, His beloved. People are prophesying here and there, claiming to be prophets and sent by God. We need discernment to know whose of God and who isn't. Satan has sent forth his troop, and they have fooled many of God's people, and many more will be fooled if we don't wake up out of slumber.

Matthew 12:18

BEHOLD MY SERVANT, WHOM I HAVE CHOSEN: MY BLOVED, IN WHOM MY SOUL IS WELL PLEASED: I WILL PUT MY SPIRIT UPON HIM, AND HE SHALL SHOW JUDGMENT TO THE GENTILES.

Just as Jesus pleased the Father we as Christians should have the same ambition to please Him. When we please the Father, Jesus said, He and the Father would

come and abide in us. There is nothing that we need more than having the Father and Son living within our being, that's if we plan to enter into Heaven and complete this Christian walk until He comes to guide us home.

Matthew 12:19

HE SHALL NOT STRIVE, NOR CRY; NEITHER SHALL ANY MAN HEAR HIS VOICE IN THE STREETS.

Jesus was gentle, He didn't fight against those that didn't believe in Him or His teaching. He didn't make Himself known by wanting to be recognize for what He was doing. He always place emphasis on the Father receiving the glory and honor. He wasn't loud and agitating as some of us. He didn't bring attention to Himself. He was meek and gentle and with loving kindness did He draw the people to hear the word of God and receive salvation.

Matthew 12:20

A BRUISED REED SHALL HE NOT BREAK, AND SMOKING FLAX SHALL HE NOT QUENCH, TILL HE SEND FORTH JUDGEMENT UNTO VICTORY.

Jesus didn't look down on those that were weak or quench their smallest hope until He brings full justice with His final victory. Jesus left the Father to reconcile us to the Father, to give us power over the adversary.

Matthew 12:21

AND HIS NAME SHALL THE GENTILES TRUST.

Jesus brought justice to the Gentiles and in His name the Gentiles believe in. Some of God's chosen people have trouble in believing in the name of Jesus.

The scribes, Pharisees and Sadducees didn't believe in the person nor the name. Those of us that have come into the realization of the Messiah, the Christ of God

should trust in no other name, but JESUS!

Matthew 12:22

Then was brought unto him one possessed with a devil (demon) Blind, and dumb (speech impairment) and he healed him, insomuch that the blind and dumb spake and saw.

Jesus healed the man to the point, he could see and talk. Jesus manifested the power of God. He was the Son of God. We as children and sons of God, should be possessing and exemplifying some of our Fathers characters. People want to see the power of God working in the believers life. Too many people are saying they are Christians and there's no power working in their life. The power of God is still moving as it did in Biblical times, we just have to contend for the faith that was once given to the Saints. They gave their all to God, and we must do the same.

Matthew 12:23

And all the people were amazed, and said, Is not this the son of David?

The people asked an affirming question "Could this be the son of David" They begin to believe that this could be the Messiah because no one else had manifested such power. People are in need of deliverance, and the power of God need to be manifested in our lives to set them free, but if we're faking and shaking God's Spirit will not dwell in us; and it's by His Spirit that brings people deliverance and healing.

Matthew 12:24

But when the Pharisees heard it, they said, this fellow doth not cast out devils, but by Beelzebub the prince of the devils.

The Pharisees had already accused Jesus as being Satan. They refused that He came from God.

they rather say He was doing it by the power of Satan rather than the power of God. Jealousy is as cruel as the grave, and those that are jealous will try to place you in the grave whether it's literally or to detriment your name.

Matthew 12:25

And Jesus knew their thoughts, and said unto them, Every kingdom divided against itself is brought to desolation: and every city or house divided against itself shall not stand.

Jesus knew their thoughts as well as their ignorance to spirituality, therefore He taught them about division. When Satan can't influence you to do wrong, he uses division to hinder the work of the ministry and relationships. When something is divided its set-apart, it's not joined together. When two or more are joined together there's strength because Jesus will be in the midst of it.

Matthew 12:26

And if Satan cast out Satan; he is divided against himself; how shall then his kingdom stand?

If Satan turns against himself he has defeated his purpose to destroy mankind. Satan anoints and appoints and sends forth his people the same way God anoints and appoints His people and send them forth. Satan is the adversary of God, he's out to recruit as many that will follow him. Either we're on the Lord's side or we aren't; there is no in between. Whoever we serve that's our master. Satan has

people thinking they can serve God and Satan, it's a lie and it will lead you to hell.

Matthew 12:27

And if I by Beelzebub cast out devils by whom do your children cast them out? Therefore they shall be your judge.

Jesus casts out demons by the Spirit of God; the Holy Spirit. Whereas the Pharisees were speaking to spirits by their own spirit because they didn't have the Holy Spirit, and neither did they serve God in loyalty. Therefore His power was not in their lives to cast out nothing.

Matthew 12:28

But if I cast out devils by the Spirit of God then the kingdom of God is come unto you.

Jesus told them He casts out demons by the Spirit of God, and the kingdom of God was among them. The Holy Spirit comes from God. God dwells in His kingdom. Heaven is His throne and earth is His footstool. Therefore since the Holy Spirit was dwelling in Jesus, the kingdom of God was among the religious leader and they didn't comprehend it.

Matthew 12:29

Or else how can one enter into a strong man's house, and spoil his goods, except he first bind the strong man? And then he will spoil his house.

A person cannot come into a man's house and take a their belongings unless he comes by surprise and tie him up and then takes what he wants. A demon cannot take over a Saint unless the person is prayer-less and hasn't been feeding upon the word of God. If you're spirit is weak, then the adversary can

come in and bring what he wants into your life.

Matthew 12:30

He that is not with me is against me; and he that gat h-ereth not with me scattereth abroad.

Those who aren't actively following Jesus has chosen to reject Him. If we're not helping Him, then we're opposing Him. If we chose to practice to live opposite of what His word has instructed us to do, they we have taken sides with Satan. Either we are with Him or we aren't. That's why there are so many different religions because people have chose to live according to their desired intellectual knowledge.

Matthew 12:31

Wherefore I say unto you, All manner of sin and blasphemy shall be forgiven unto men: but the blasphemy against the Holy Ghost shall not be forgiven unto men.

Whoever rejects the prompting of the Holy Spirit removes himself from the only force that can lead him to repentance and restoration to God. It's the working of the Holy Spirit that brings about a salvation experience, that produces new life in the believer. The Holy Spirit is the divine workman of the regeneration.

Matthew 12:32

And whosoever speaketh a word against the Son of man, it shall be forgiven him: but whosoever speaketh against the Holy Ghost, it shall not be forgiven him, neither in this world, neither in the world to come.

Blasphemy against the Holy Ghost or Holy Spirit is denying that the Holy Ghost convicts us of sin. It's denying that it's the Holy Ghost that cast out demonic spirits.

Matthew 12:33

Either make the tree good, and his fruit good; or else make the tree corrupt (bad) for the tree is known by his fruit.

Jesus is not speaking of a plant tree, He's speaking of people. What's in us will come out when the right button is pushed. Some don't need a button to be pushed they just automatically don't have nothing too good to say or do.

Matthew 12:34

O' generation of vipers, how can ye, being evil, speak good things? For out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaketh.

There is nothing good in our flesh or in hearts unless the Holy Spirit comes upon our hearts and brings about a change. We have offended many by what has come out of hearts. There are people that are receiving counseling because of what their parents or someone continued to say to them that came from the mouth and heart of a unregenerated person.

Matthew 12:35

A good man out of the good treasure of the heart bringeth forth good things: and an evil man out of the evil treasures bringeth forth evil things.

What's in a person heart will manifest itself whether it to godliness or ungodliness. We can't solve our heart problem just by cleaning up our speech, it takes brain and heart surgery. The

old brain has to be renewed with the word of God. The stony heart has to be replaced with a heart of flesh and God's word written within the table of the heart. A treasure holds items. When the heart has not been renewed by the word of God, old dead things begin to surface; things we thought was buried. What we fail to remember is if something is buried, it can be dug up again.

Matthew 12:36

But I say unto you, That every idle word that men shall speak, they shall give account thereof in the day of judgment.

We must be careful in how we speak; we can either bless our life or curse it with the word we speak. Words are spirit and they can either bring life or death. Words can bring either abundance or poverty. Some of the things we're going through in the present is a manifestation of what we have spoken in the past.

Matthew 12:37

For by thy words thou shall be justified, and by they words thou shall be condemned.

There is not a word we have spoken that God did not hear. We will either be blessed by the words we speak, or have judgment because of the negative words we have spoken. When we speak God's words. He watches over His words to perform them, and believe me when we speak negative words, Satan watches to perform the negative words we speak. He imitates everything that God does!

Matthew 12:38

Then certain of the scribes

and of the Pharisees answered saying, Master we would see a sign from thee.

Most likely they heard of the different healings Jesus had performed. Demons cast out of people, those that had leprosy healed, those were miracles, but they wanted more because they wanted to find something to discredit Him, something that would justify their evil deeds towards Him.

Matthew 12:39

But he answered and said unto them, and evil and adulterous generation seeketh after a sign: and there should no sign be given to it, but the sign of the prophet Jonah.

If the Pharisees would have been living according to the word of God, they would not have been looking for a sign. When taking a test at school, as long as the student is studying, turn in the requested paperwork, they don't worry about a pop quiz, because they have already study, and the teacher usually don't give a quiz on something they haven't studied. It's the same thing spiritual, when we give our hearts to the Lord, apply His word to our life, we don't seek signs, and wonder when He's returning, we rejoice knowing one day He shall return in His glory!

Matthew 12:40

For as Jonah was three days and three nights in the whale's belly; so shall the Son of man be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth.

Just as Jonah was in the belly of the whale for three days, Jesus would be in the tomb for three days. Thank God the grave couldn't hold Him. Just as He resurrected, He will resurrect us to serve Him in Holiness.

Matthew 12:41

The men of Nineveh shall rise in judgment with this generation, and shall condemn it: because they repented at the preaching of Jonah; and, behold, a greater than Jonah is here.

In Jonah's day, Nineveh was the capital of the Assyrian Empire, it was powerful as it was evil, but the people repented at Jonah's preaching. Jesus, the Christ was greater than Jonah, but the people's heart was hardened, and they wouldn't repent.

Matthew 12:42

The queen of the south shall rise up in the judgment with this generation, and shall condemn it: for she came from the uttermost parts of the earth to hear the wisdom of Solomon; and, behold, a greater than Solomon is here.

The Ninevites would shame them from not repenting, and the queen of Sheba for not believing in Christ.

The queen of Sheba came from afar to hear the wisdom of Solomon, but wisdom that was in Solomon didn't compare to the wisdom of the Messiah. Solomon was great, but the Son of God is greater!

Matthew 12:43

When the unclean spirit is gone out of a man, he walketh through dry places, seeking rest, and findeth none.

When salvation comes to an individual they are no longer bound by Satan. When the spirit is cast out of them, he tries to re-enter, but can't because the physical house has been cleansed.

Matthew 12:44

Then he saith, I will return into my house, from whence I came out; and when he is come, he findeth it empty, swept, and garnished.

When we keep our physical

house cleaned, and filled with the word of God, Satan cannot find a place of rest. Spirits that has been cast out of us by the word of God, laying on of the hands will try to re-enter if we don't keep our house full of willingness and obedience, prayer, praise and the word of God.

Mathew 12:45

Then goeth he and taketh with himself seven other spirits more wicked than himself and they enter in and dwell there; and the last state of that man is worse than the first. Even so shall it be unto this wicked generation.

The person the spirit re-enter are those that have went back to the things that God delivered them from. They don't submit themselves to the word of God, so the spirit that was cast out re-enters and brings others with them. The person is worst than they were before they were delivered. Once we're delivered from something, we can't toy with it, we can't do, say and go everywhere and think we will keep our deliverance. We would have a vacancy sign on our spirit, and ungodly spirits will welcome the offer.

Matthew 12:46

While he yet talked to the people, behold, his mother and his brethren stood without, desiring to speak with him.

As Jesus was talking to the crowd, His mother and brother were waiting to speak with Him. Jesus wasn't denying His responsibility to His earthly family, but He was given an example of how we must stay focus on what we're sent to do, we cannot let family or anything else detour us from the assignment God has given to us. God is concerned about family and He wants our family together, but He don't want us to forsake Him for family.

Matthew 12:47

Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a net, that was cast out into the sea, and gathered of every kind:

The dragnet were pulled between to boats and taken out into the water. The net would catch different types of fish and other objects.

Matthew 12:48

Which when it was full, they drew to shore, and sat down, and gathered the good into the vessels, but cast the bad away.

The anointing will either draw or drive people. No way an ungodly person wants to stay around a person that's full of the Holy Spirit unless they desire to submit themselves to God.

Matthew 12:49

So shall it be at the end of the world: the angels shall come forth and sever (separate) the wicked from the just.

Time is drawing nearer than people realize for the return of the Son of God. The angels will separate the righteous from the unrighteous.

Matthew 12:50

And shall cast them into the furnace of fire: there shall be wailing and gnashing of teeth.

The spirit of man never dies, once thrown into hell they will feel the fire, the body worms never die, they will see and feel them for eternity. It's time that we really pray for God to give the ungodly a mind to repent and receive salvation.

God bless you! Be encouraged. Know that you have the victory through Jesus Christ, the Lord of Host.

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