



Chapter 12:9-14
The Mercy of the King

Matt. 12:9 Now when He had departed from there, He went into their synagogue.

Matt. 12:10 And behold, there was a man who had a withered hand. And they asked Him, saying, "Is it lawful to heal on the Sabbath?" — that they might accuse Him.

Matt. 12:11 Then He said to them, "What man is there among you who has one sheep, and if it falls into a pit on the Sabbath, will not lay hold of it and lift it out?"

Matt. 12:12 Of how much more value then is a man than a sheep? Therefore it is lawful to do good on the Sabbath."

Matt. 12:13 Then He said to the man, "Stretch out your hand." And he stretched it out, and it was restored as whole as the other.

Matt. 12:14 Then the Pharisees went out and plotted against Him, how they might destroy Him.

Observations & Discussion

1. How is the question posed to Jesus in vs. 2 tied to the contention between Jesus and the Pharisees recorded in vss. 1-8 that we studied last week? Why do you think the religious leaders had a problem with healing on the Sabbath?
2. Note Matthew's commentary at the end of vs 10. What does this reveal about the character and motivation of the Pharisees?
3. Compare Paul's instruction in 2Tim. 2:24-26 with Titus 3:10-11. What is the key difference that determines whether or not **you** should engage with a person over an area of disagreement? Why is it important for you to follow Paul's instructions?
4. Go back and read vs. 7. How does what Jesus said there connect with the questions He asked the Pharisees in vss. 11-12? Based on vss. 7, 10-11 what is the ONE word that communicates the spirit of the Law that the Pharisees missed?
5. What is an example of a conviction you hold that you would be willing to break so that you might minister to another person? Check out 2Chr. 30:17-20 for inspiration.
6. The contention between Jesus and the Pharisees was the question of what constituted "work". Now look at how Jesus healed the man with the withered hand—why is that significant (and kind of funny!)?