

Message #41**Matthew 12:1-14**

Most in Israel had no heart for a relationship with Him. As a result, we come to Matthew 12 and it is right here where the offer of the kingdom stops. He no longer will be interested in proving He is the Messiah nor presenting the kingdom to Israel. As we come to Matthew 12, the message is clear:

THE PHARISEES CONSPIRE TO DESTROY JESUS CHRIST BECAUSE HE DEMONSTRATED HE IS LORD OVER THE SABBATH AND LORD IN THE SYNAGOGUE.

In this passage of Scripture, the leaders of Israel not only demonstrate they reject Christ, but they begin to conspire as to how they may destroy Him. The Pharisees are losing their clout to the One they are supposed to worship and honor—God. But instead of leading people to Him, they want to destroy Him.

REASON #1 – The Pharisees want to destroy Christ because He shows He is Lord over the Sabbath in a grain field. **12:1-8**

The Pharisees invented things not to do and one of the things they invented was they were not to take grain or ears of corn and eat them from the field on the Sabbath day. This is stated nowhere in Scripture, but it was one of their man-made traditions and rules.

Jesus refuted the Pharisees charge by offering three illustrations, two of which come right out of Scripture. Basically Jesus is saying, “Don’t you religious leaders know your Bibles?”

(Illustration #1) - The illustration of David. **12:3-4**

When David was on the run from Saul, he was given bread which was normally reserved for priests alone (I Sam. 21:1-6/Lev. 24:9). Now the context of David is important. He was rejected as God’s anointed and forced to go on the run as a fugitive. This fact polluted and profaned any sacred thing. The big sin was not David eating tabernacle bread; it was his rejection.

(Illustration #2) - The illustration of temple priests. **12:5**

The temple priests were involved in temple work on the Sabbath day, which meant they could eat and were considered innocent. These Pharisees should have known this truth for it was right out of the Old Testament. Part of the work of these priests was to offer sacrifices on the Sabbath day (Num. 28:9-10, 18-19).

(Illustration #3) - The illustration of His own person. **12:6-8**

Jesus Christ says some powerful things in these verses that only God can say:

- 1) Jesus is greater than the temple (**12:6**). The temple worships God for He is God.
- 2) Pharisees condemn Him because they do not know God (**12:7**).
- 3) Jesus is Lord of the Sabbath (**12:8**). The Sabbath is from Him and about Him.

Jesus came to this earth to offer grace and mercy to sinners. These Pharisees had no clue concerning this.

REASON #2 – The Pharisees want to destroy Christ because He shows He is Lord over the Sabbath in a synagogue. **12:9-14**

Jesus went from the grain field to the synagogue. I want you to see something here—Christ is not sneaking around. He is right out in the open with the truth. He does not hide or back down because people don't like Him.

While He was in the synagogue, there was a man with a shriveled hand. It is quite apparent that he was planted by the Pharisees in the synagogue because they are out to trap Christ.

(Point #1) - Any man would help a sheep on the Sabbath day. **12:11**

If a sheep fell into a pit and it was the Sabbath day, any person would lift it out of the pit. They would not leave the animal in the pit until the Sabbath day was over.

(Point #2) - Any man is more valuable than a sheep on the Sabbath day. **12:12**

If one can do good to a sheep on the Sabbath day, one can certainly do something nice and good for a human on the Sabbath day.

(Point #3) - Jesus healed the man's hand on the Sabbath day. **12:13**

Now notice carefully **verse 14**—the response of the Pharisees was that they conspired to destroy Jesus Christ. This was okay for them to do on the Sabbath day, but it was not okay for Christ to let His hungry disciples have something to eat and for Him to show mercy on the man with the crippled hand on the Sabbath day.