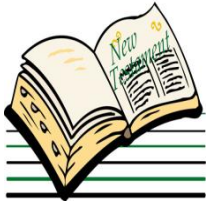


Sermon Notes



Title: "Opposition to Jesus' Lordship of the Sabbath"

Text: Matthew 12:1-14

Theme: God gave the Sabbath to be a blessing for mankind, not a burden. But people who instinctively rely on correct ritual tend to turn the Lord's Day into a burdensome assignment. If you oppose Jesus, you will oppose what He intends not just for the Sabbath, but for anything else in your life that you guard closely.

I. Pharisees _____ Jesus for Allowing
" _____ " on the Sabbath (1-8)

II. Pharisees _____ Jesus' View of
_____ on the Sabbath (9-14)

III. Applications

A. _____ the Lord's Day is under the
_____ of Christ.

B. Something _____ than anything has come
into the _____ of your life. Christ's
_____ is not a matter of
_____, but _____.

C. God desires a heart that _____ Him and other
people more than even doing important _____ of
_____ because, if devoid of _____ for
Christ, it is _____.

Next Week Read: Matthew 12:15-21

Questions to Discuss and Consider at Home or in Small Group:

1. What were Jesus' disciples doing that caused a problem with some people (v. 1)?
2. Who saw what the disciples were doing and complained? To whom did they raise their complaint (v. 2a)?
3. What was their complaint (v. 2b)?
4. What was Jesus' first argument in defense of what His disciples were doing (vv. 3-4)?
5. What was Jesus' second argument in defense of what His disciples were doing (vv. 5-6)?
6. What important principle from the prophet Hosea did Jesus point out (v. 7)?
7. How did Jesus summarize His response (v. 8)?
8. Where did Jesus go after this incident happened (v. 9)?
9. What happened there that caused another problem (v. 10a)?
10. What question did the Pharisees pose to Jesus? Why did they raise this question (v. 10b)?
11. What analogy did Jesus use to answer them (v. 11)? What was the lesson from this analogy (v. 12a)? What was the conclusion Jesus stated to the Pharisees' question (v. 12b)?
12. What happened to the paralyzed man (v. 13)?
13. How did the Pharisees respond (v. 14)?
14. In demonstrating that He, Jesus, is Lord of the Sabbath, does this mean that the Lord's Day rest is abrogated (annulled)?
15. How do we know that the Sabbath day is something permanent for human life and not just a temporary Jewish provision?
16. What is the startling implication (to His audience at least) about Jesus' claim to be Lord of the Sabbath?
17. Is it wrong to make our own rules and regulations in addition to God's law about how to observe the Sabbath? What is a common tendency that occurs when we do this?
18. Are traditions necessarily bad? How can we keep our traditions from usurping or becoming substitutes for God's commands?
19. How do we often call into question that Jesus is "something greater" in our life when it involves our traditions or other areas in our life (e.g. our time, talents, money, etc.)?
20. Are there ways that we elevate ritual and tradition over mercy and love?
21. Discuss this possible scenario:

A family has a rule and practice that they will do no yard work on Sunday (mow the lawn, plant flowers, work in the garden, etc.). After being on vacation for two weeks they return home late Saturday night to a lawn that is two inches higher than allowed by their homeowner's association covenants. They find a letter in the mail stating that if the lawn is not mowed by 12:00 p.m. on Sunday, the next day, the HOA will fine the homeowner \$150 and hire someone to mow the lawn on Sunday while charging the owner for it. What should the family do? Mow the lawn in the dark on Saturday evening? Ignore the letter and the Sunday deadline, then hire an attorney on Monday to sue the HOA? Skip church, mow the lawn and ask God for forgiveness? Pay the fine and the elevated cost of mowing the yard (at least they didn't personally violate their Sabbath rule)? Go back on vacation? Plant explosives around the perimeter of the yard? Ask the Pastor for a special dispensation to mow their yard? Something else?
22. How should Jesus' lordship over the Sabbath impact the family in this scenario? What is a besetting problem in trying to evaluate scenarios such as this?