

The Servant Lord of Rest

Matthew 12:1-21 - NCBC, May 10, 2020

Main Point: **Reject the yoke of legalism and rest in Jesus' work alone.**

- As Lord, only Jesus offers the hope of rest (1-14)
 - Rest from legalistic burdens (1-2)
 - Rest from legalistic blindness (3-6)
 - Rest from legalistic bullying (7-8)
 - Rest from legalistic barriers (9-14)
- As Servant, only Jesus offers the hope of representation (15-21)
 - He has the approval of God (17-18a)
 - He has the power of God (18b)
 - He has the heart of God (19-20a)
 - He is the saving hope for us (20b-21)

Application: **Come to Jesus and find rest for your soul (Mt 11:28)**

Opening Announcements:

- **Remember to visit myncbc.org** and follow our NCBC Facebook page to stay informed on all ministry/event updates during this season of sheltering, that has now been extended by our Governor through the month of May.
- Our **2019/20 Annual Mtg** is going virtual! Next Sunday evening, **May 17th, at 6pm** we will be live-streaming our Annual Mtg. All are invited to join us for this special time of celebration and vision-casting for the next 12 months of our ministry together. Our members will be asked to vote on the 2020/21 proposed budget as well. Please plan to join us!!

<<Come Thou Fount>>



Can you imagine your entrance into our heavenly home? Home, safe at last...all by God's doing, and for His glory!

I invite you to open your Bible to **Matthew chapter 12** as we continue worshipping Jesus together this morning.

Also, please notice all the livestream links for fill-in-the-blank sermon notes, my manuscript, and children's coloring pages. You are always welcome to pause this video, print those files, and then rejoin our worship with those notes in front of you.

For all the Moms joining us ...let me add my thanks for you. We all have a mom. Some are already in eternity. Some are still here. Some of our moms were good moms...some not so good. But on this Mother's Day we seek to honor you.

As I thank you, I also urge every Mom listening right now to truly trust in Jesus. You don't have to keep up with Pinterest or anyone else. It's ok if homeschooling isn't your thing or your kids aren't dressed in the latest fashions. A clean home won't ever satisfy your soul. Your children aren't able to give you an identity.

So moms, on this Mother's Day, receive new life and forgiveness from Jesus! Come and rest your soul in His finished work! His yoke is easy, and His burden is light.

In fact, as our Bibles are open to **Matthew chapter 12**, those words from the end of **chapter 11** are still ringing in our ears from last week's message.

THE GOSPEL ACCORDING TO MATTHEW				
1-3 Presentation of the King				
4-7 Proclamation of the King <i>Sermon on the Mount (5-7)</i>	8-10 Power of the King <i>Sending out the 12 Apostles (10)</i>	11-13 Rejection of the King <i>Kingdom Parables (13)</i>	14-20 Priorities of the King <i>Topsy-Turvy Values (18)</i>	21-25 Progress of the King <i>Olivet Discourse (24-25)</i>
Kingdom offered to Israel			Kingdom offered to all Nations	
26-28 Passion & Proof of the King				

Remember, **chapter 12** is the hinge point of Matthew's gospel. We're right in the middle of Matthew's presentation of Jesus as King in fulfillment of God's promises.

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26-28 Passion & Proof of the King				

Throughout these first chapters, **Matthew** has repeatedly demonstrated that Jesus is in fact the long-awaited Messianic King. The kingdom of heaven is here for Israel to receive! Israel only has to believe and receive Jesus as their Messiah, and God's kingdom on earth would be established!

But now in **chapter 12**, the religious leaders of Israel officially reject King Jesus and decide to destroy Him. And the rest of **Matthew** reveals how God's kingdom is then offered to Gentiles from all nations of the world.



So let's read **Matthew 12, verses 1-21**. And as we read, consider how this section illustrates Jesus' invitation at the end of **chapter 11**. Jesus offers rest from religious legalism. God's heart is different than the Pharisees. Jesus is gentle and lowly – compassionate and merciful... offering eternal rest to every person who will submit to His Lordship.

Matthew 12, verse 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.”

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.

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.”

This is God’s Word.

Let’s Pray Together.

The most important thing about you is what you believe about God. Notice I didn’t say that the most important thing about you is that you’re a Christian. Because sadly, many professing Christians who share the Pharisees’ view of God from **Matthew chapter 12** will share the Pharisee’s eternal judgment as well.

You see over time the Pharisees had remade God in their own image. Theirs was a nationalist God – a Jewish God – an all-powerful God who blessed law-keepers and cursed law-breakers.

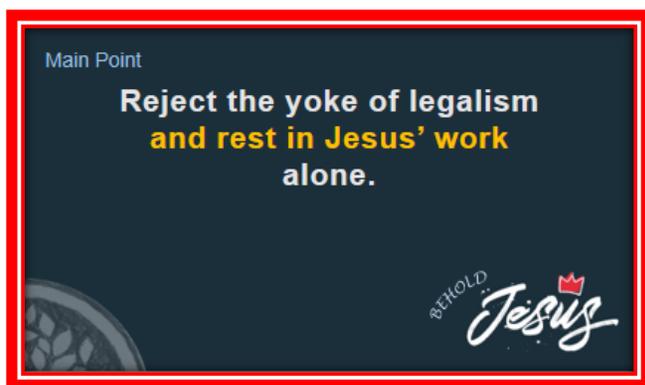
And that’s why they didn’t have any category for Jesus. Because when true God took on human flesh and walked among them as Jesus the Nazarene, Jesus did not match their view of God. Although He claimed to be God, and did powerful works that only God could do... Jesus touched lepers, befriended sinners, and drew near to the weakest of society! Further, Jesus disregarded all their manmade religion – especially their Sabbath traditions!

Therefore the Pharisees rejected the true God out of loyalty to their self-made traditions. And that's the result of all religious legalism! Legalism always forfeits God's grace while clinging to the lie that my ways are better than God's way.¹

Religious legalism is the belief that my obedience is what earns or keeps God's approval. Legalism believes that God must be paid off, and He can only be satisfied through rule-following or law-keeping. Outward compliance is what matters – regardless of inner motives.

Religious legalism enslaves you to a performance treadmill controlled by the religious elite in your community. It's a horrible yoke to submit yourself to.

And so Matthew contrasts Jesus' yoke at the end of **chapter 11** with the Pharisee's legalism. And our main point is simply to:



Reject the yoke of legalism and rest in Jesus' work alone.

¹ Jonah 2:8

² Genesis 2:2-3

³ Isaiah 40:28

⁴ Genesis 1:31

Receive Jesus to be set free from all man-made religion!

Now before we can understand how Jesus is the Lord of the Sabbath in **verses 1-14**, we need to take a quick 10-minute refresher on the Old Testament Sabbath.

Sunday is not the "Christian Sabbath"			
Title	Day	Sign of	Weekly Reminder To
Sabbath "Shabbat"	Saturday	Mosaic Covenant "The Law"	

The word Sabbath means rest, and it comes from **Genesis 2** when God finished all His creation work, and He *blessed the seventh day and made it holy, because on it God rested from all His work that He had done in creation.*²

Of course God didn't rest out of exhaustion, for *the Lord does not grow weary.*³ He stopped working out of supreme satisfaction. His creation was "very good" – perfectly righteous – just as it should be!⁴ So He devoted every Saturday to glory in His power to create a world of perfect righteousness!

Hundreds of years pass without any further mention of the Sabbath in Scripture.⁵ As far as we know, none of

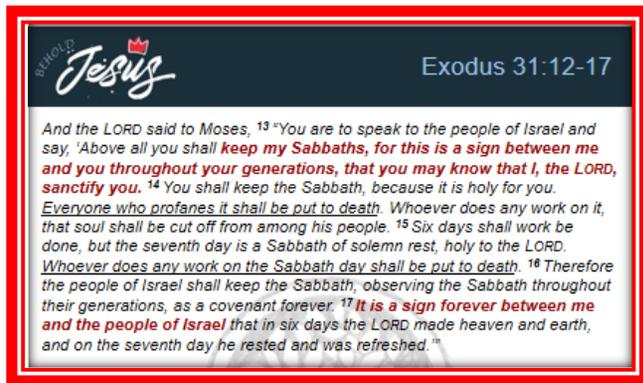
⁵ From Galatians 3:17 we know there were 430 years between the Abraham Covenant and the Mosaic Covenant. It's impossible to know with certainty how many years were between Adam and Abraham.

God's people like Adam, Noah, Abraham, or Jacob worshipped on Saturday or treated that day any differently than others. It's not until **Exodus chapter 16** that God tells Israel not to collect manna on Saturday, for *it is a holy Sabbath to the Lord*.⁶

Only when God reveals His 10 commandments⁷ does ceasing from work on Saturday become part of Israel's law.⁸

So listen – the Sabbath law was a part of the Mosaic Covenant, God's Law which codified righteousness as love⁹ and awakened people to their sinfulness so they might see their need for a Savior!¹⁰

And **Exodus 31** explains the Sabbath was actually a weekly sign or reminder of the entire Mosaic Law.



⁶ Exodus 16:23

⁷ Exodus 20:8-11

⁸ Most likely the law was given to God's people circa 1445 B.C.

⁹ Matthew 22:36-40; Romans 13:8-10; Galatians 5:14

¹⁰ Romans 3:19-20; 7:7-12, 14; Galatians 3:19-25

¹¹ Genesis 9:12-17

¹² Genesis 17:9-14

Consider **verse 13 of Exodus 31**,

¹³ *"You are to speak to the people of Israel and say, 'Above all you shall keep my Sabbaths, for this is a sign between me and you throughout your generations, that you may know that I, the Lord, sanctify you.*

Just like the rainbow was a sign of the Noahic covenant,¹¹ and circumcision was a sign of the Abrahamic covenant,¹² ...restful Saturdays were a sign of the Mosaic covenant.¹³ *That you may know that I, the Lord, sanctify you.*

Now think about this. **Verse 17** is clear that not working on Saturday is connected to God's satisfaction after Creation.

So when God rested after creation, where was mankind? In Eden, right? In the perfect bliss of a God-created righteousness. But as soon as Adam and Eve sinned, paradise was lost and mankind has been trying to work our way back into communion with God ever since.

Therefore the Sabbath law was a weekly reminder – as the sign of the Mosaic Law – how sin separates us from God's presence, since you must be righteous to dwell with God. The Sabbath law was a weekly reminder that only the power of God was able to truly create the kind of righteousness required by God's law.¹⁴ As the Jews

¹³ C.f. Ezekiel 20:12. Failure to keep the Sabbath was seen as a sign that the people of God were no longer living according to God's law, and were liable for God's judgment – i.e. Jeremiah 17:27; Nehemiah 13:15-19

¹⁴ C.f. Deuteronomy 5:13-15 which connects the Jew's observance of the Sabbath to their remembrance of God's saving power in delivering them from slavery in Egypt.

ceased their earthly work, it reminded them that they could never work themselves back into God's favor.¹⁵ God wanted His people to keep the Sabbath every 7 days to remind them that trusting in your own work will lead to ruin.

Sunday is not the "Christian Sabbath"			
Title	Day	Sign of	Weekly Reminder To
Sabbath "Shabbat"	Saturday	Mosaic Covenant "The Law"	Repent of my work Rest in God's work
The Lord's Day	Sunday	n/a	Celebrate Christ's Resurrection

In other words, keeping the sabbath was a weekly reminder to repent of sin and to rest in God's work alone for their belonging to Him. Thus the Sabbath law was more a sign of faith in God's power, than a provision for physical recuperation.

Now we need to pull the bus over for a moment.

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Sabbath "Shabbat"	Saturday	Mosaic Covenant "The Law"	Repent of my work Rest in God's work
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It's worth noting here that Sunday is not the "Christian Sabbath."

While the church has traditionally gathered on Sundays¹⁶ to honor Jesus' resurrection, there is no New Testament command for Christians to not work on Sundays.

The Sabbath was the sign of the Mosaic Covenant, and when Jesus came He did away with all the rituals, sacrifices, priesthood, and sabbaths of the law. Jesus fulfilled the Law.¹⁷ **Hebrews 4** makes it clear that believing in Jesus is our Sabbath rest...and it's a way of life, not a day of the week!¹⁸ **Colossians 2:16-17** condemns judging anyone for working on the Sabbath, since the Sabbath was just a shadow of the things to come, but the substance belongs to Christ.¹⁹

Historically, early Christians rejected any Sabbath-mentality as a leftover from Judaism. It wasn't until the emperor Constantine legalized Christianity in 300 AD and set aside one day a week for vocational rest, that

¹⁵ Consider further how the OT Sabbath laws were a foreshadowing of the Sabbath rest realized only via faith in Christ according to Hebrews 4:10.

¹⁶ Acts 20:7; 1 Corinthians 16:2; c.f. <https://www.gotquestions.org/worship-on-Sunday.html>

¹⁷ Matthew 5:17

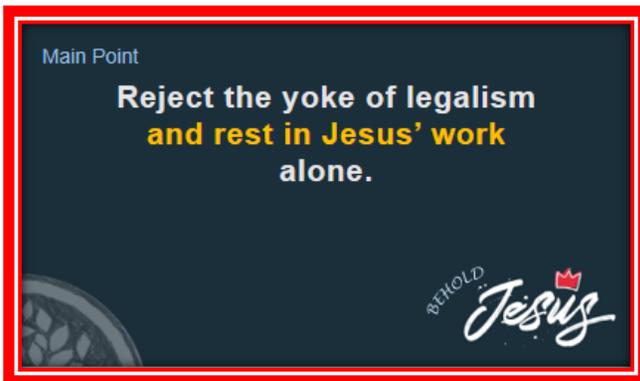
¹⁸ Hebrews 4:3, 9-11, 14-16

¹⁹ C.f. Romans 14:5-6

“Christian Sabbatarianism” started to gain popularity. Today most of our convictions related to not working on Sunday have come more from Puritan influence, rather than the teaching of the New Testament.²⁰

So let me be as clear as I can... it is good for Christians to rest.²¹ Rest is a biblical principle and one that is greatly needed in these days that wrongly seek identity in how much we accomplish.

But God does not forbid working on Sunday or Saturday. Nothing in the New Testament transfers the Saturday laws for Israel over to the church. The Sabbath laws were the sign of the Mosaic Covenant to remind God’s people how trusting in your own work forfeits paradise, while only God’s work can create a righteousness which satisfies His law.



So then let’s pull our bus back onto **Matthew 12’s** road.

All throughout Jesus’ ministry He was poking at the Pharisee’s misapplication of the Sabbath. Perhaps now you can understand why?

For instead of the Sabbath becoming a sign of their own need to rest upon God’s power and work, their Sabbath-keeping had become the legalistic pride of the Jews.

In short, the Pharisees had turned their Sabbath-keeping into an exhibit of how righteous and holy they were!

By the time of Christ, the Jewish rabbis had categorized forbidden work into 39-different categories, each with multiple sub-categories. And their strict legal approach to the most trivial expressions of work made the Sabbath an excruciatingly painful experience for all Jews.

For example,²² if you spit on the dirt, and it made an indentation in the dust – you were guilty of doing the work of plowing. You had broken the Sabbath, and were worthy of death! However, if the spit fell on a rock, then no work was done!

Talk about being strangled by legalism!! Even today, orthodox Jews are imprisoned by these man-made rabbinic traditions surrounding Shabbat. Every Saturday, all elevators in Jerusalem are programmed to automatically stop at every floor, since pushing an elevator button is considered an act of work. All lights in orthodox Jewish homes are on timers, since flicking a light twitch is violation of the man-made Sabbath laws.

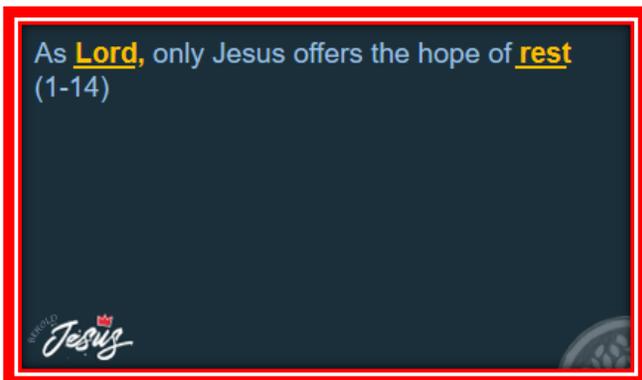
²⁰ The New American Commentary on Matthew is most helpful with this historical perspective.

²¹ Psalm 4:8; Matthew 14:13; Mark 4:27

²² All these examples can be found in more detail in James Boice’s excellent commentary on *The Gospel of Matthew*.

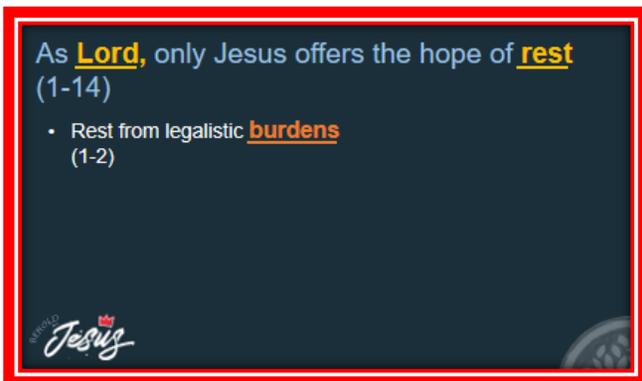
Can you see why Jesus was so determined to expose the pride of Sabbath-keeping? This was nothing more than religious legalism. Man-made attempts to make themselves acceptable to God, which missed the entire point of God's Sabbath laws.

So now, let's see how Matthew presents Jesus, for



As Lord, only He offers the hope of rest.

Legalistic religion lays heavy burdens on people.²³ So bring your sins to Jesus, where you will find,

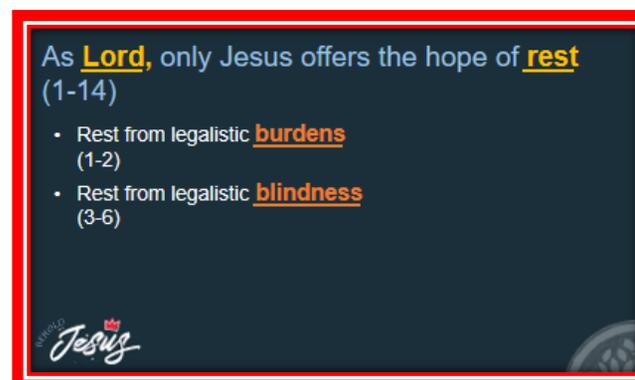


²³ Matthew 23:4
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Rest from legalistic burdens (1-2)

Chapter 12 opens with Jesus and His disciples walking through a field of grain on a Sabbath. Since they were hungry, some of them picked some grain, rubbed it between their hands, blew away the chaff, and ate. According to **Deuteronomy 23:25** – this was not stealing, as this kind of simple gleaning was permitted. But according to the burdensome traditions of the rabbis, the disciples had broken the Sabbath law in three ways – they had done the work of harvesting, threshing, and winnowing. And so they immediately judged their law-breaking in **verse 2**.

But Jesus is the Lord of rest – and His reply in **verses 3-6** invites us to,



Rest from legalistic blindness by going back to what God's Word actually has to say.

Manmade religion blinds us to God's will by either taking away from, or adding to, God's Word.²⁴ The Pharisees

²⁴ Revelation 22:18-19

were blind to the fact that the whole aim of the law was love – not ritual!

So in **verse 3 and verse 5** Jesus asks twice, *Have you not read?*

Dear friends – if you are bruised from the blows of legalism, ask God to help you understand His Word for what it actually says. For our Lord has a heart of compassion and care for those who are hurting.²⁵

First, Jesus refers to King David who found himself hungry and desperate in **1 Samuel 21**. The only food available was the bread reserved for the tabernacle priests.²⁶

And here's Jesus' point – preserving life is more important than technical law-keeping. Never focus so much on obedience that you fail to show love to others with genuine needs.

Again in **verse 5**, Jesus notes that God's law required the temple priests to work on the Sabbath.²⁷ But the rigid legalists were blind to such exceptions. So Jesus reminds them that the goal of real righteousness is love for God and others.

Verse 6 would have shocked the Pharisees. What could be greater than God's temple – the very place where God meets with His people?

²⁵ Matthew 11:29

²⁶ Leviticus 24:5-9

²⁷ Numbers 28:9-10, 18-19

²⁸ 1 Peter 1:8-9

But they couldn't see that God Himself was standing in front of them...offering them eternal rest for their souls.

You'll never find rest for your soul in religious legalism. To many have tried the religion of obedience, and walked away wrongly believing they have tried Jesus and failed.

But loved ones, faith is first love for God before it is ever obedience to Him.²⁸ Any outward action which is not powered by love for God or faith in His goodness is spiritually worthless.²⁹

Only sincerely trusting in Jesus offers,



Rest from legalistic **bullying** (7-8)

Jesus is angered by the Pharisees' repeated condemnation of the innocent. In the name of God, legalists envy and provoke one another,³⁰ and build themselves up by putting others down.³¹

²⁹ Romans 8:8; 1 Corinthians 13:1-3; Galatians 5:6; Colossians 2:20-23; Hebrews 11:6

³⁰ Galatians 5:26

³¹ Matthew 23:13

And so **verse 7** again asks them to learn from God's Word – this time from **Hosea, 6:6**³² which says,

I desire mercy, not sacrifice.

Sacrifice refers to the external formalities of the sacrificial system. All the religious rituals and ceremonies. And Hosea says God never values the letter of the law more than the spirit of it. The whole law is summed up as loving God and loving others³³...and any obedience that is not motivated by faith and love for God and others cannot fulfill God's law.³⁴

Now **verse 8** nails the heart of the issue. The Pharisees don't have authority over the Sabbath. God does. In fact, Jesus Himself has ultimate authority over the Sabbath. *For the Son of Man is the Lord of the Sabbath!* This is a clear and undisputed claim that Jesus is God!

So have you been beat up by others' religious pride? They have no authority over your soul. Come today to the Lord of the Sabbath – the Lord of rest, and you'll discover rest from your legalistic burdens, legalistic blindness, legalistic bullying, and also,



Rest from legalistic **barriers**.

Here's what I mean by barriers. Have you ever noticed how legalism can hold you back from loving others? Legalists have to pick their battles, and determine who they're going to please. Legalism paralyzes love.

So as proof for Jesus' Lordship, Matthew shows us how Jesus overcomes the barriers of man-made religion.³⁵

The Pharisees stage a man with a deformed hand in their synagogue and ask Jesus, *is it lawful to heal on the Sabbath?* After all, their rabbinic tradition did not allow any healing for a sick person on the Sabbath unless it was life-threatening.

Now Jesus knows that any of the Pharisees would have rescued an animal who fell in a pit on the Sabbath. So He asks the obvious question,

How much more value is a man than a sheep?

³² This is the second time in Matthew's Gospel that Jesus has quoted this verse. The first occurrence is found in Matthew 9:13 where the Pharisees asked why Jesus ate with tax collectors and sinners.

³³ Matthew 22:36-40

³⁴ 1 Corinthians 13:3

³⁵ Luke 6:6ff

Obviously, people are more important than animals! Therefore it's always God's will for you to love God and serve others. It's always right to do good.

And to prove that He indeed has the authority to determine the purpose of the Sabbath, He commands the man to stretch out his hand, and instantly heals his hand!

Don't miss what Jesus did here. Remember God's whole purpose for the Sabbath was to be a reminder that only God had the power to create the righteousness required by His law. The Sabbath sign pointed the Jews to trust in God's work to create righteousness, as the Mosaic law continued to remind them of their sin. And so to prove that He Himself is the Lord of the Sabbath and the Creator God Himself – Jesus recreates this man's hand.

How will you respond to such Divine power and authority? Will you come to Jesus by faith, receiving Him as Lord, and be set free from the bondage to religious legalism?

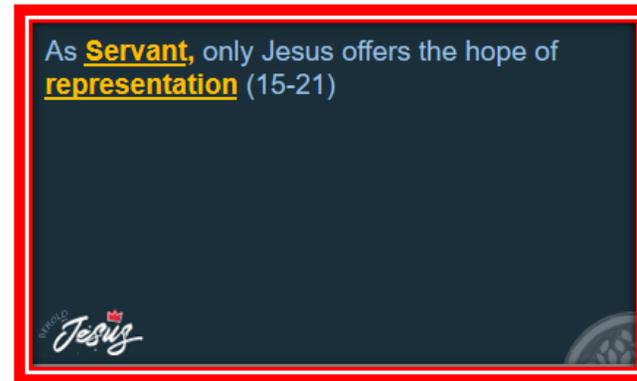
Or like the Pharisees in **verse 14**, will you cling to your own system of man-made righteousness, and seek to destroy the very God who is offering eternal rest to your soul today?

The heart of legalism is clearly exposed in **verse 14**. Take a long and careful look at its murderous pride.³⁶ Then compare it with the heart of Jesus back in **chapter 11, verse 29**: *gentle and lowly in heart*.

³⁶ In many ways the Pharisees personified the heart of the older brother in Luke 15:25-30

Dear friend, please turn from your proud and stubborn attempts at making yourself good enough for God. Repent of your pride. Humble yourself, believe that Jesus' death paid the penalties for all your sins. Believe that His resurrection secured your forgiveness and eternal life with God. Believe that His ascension granted you oneness with His Spirit – so that you may now genuinely love others in fulfillment of God's righteous law.

You see here's the wonder of Jesus as King. He's not only the Lord – possessing all authority in heaven and on earth – but He is a Servant.



And as Servant, only Jesus offers the hope of eternal representation for you. Only Jesus can save you and present you blameless in the presence of God.³⁷

No religious legalist – no matter how well respected on the earth – can serve you before the Holy God.

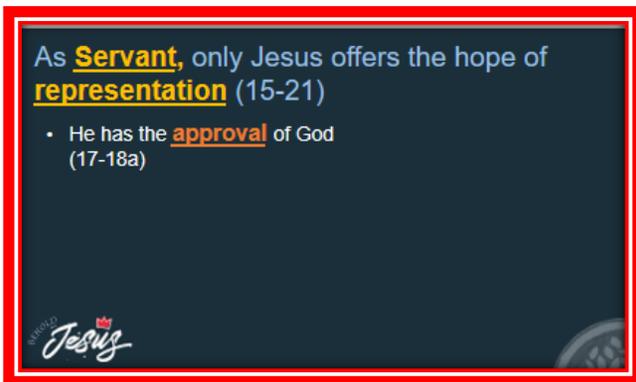
In **verse 15**, Jesus silently withdraws from the conflict, and continues preaching, healing, and loving others.

³⁷ Jude 24-25

Jesus wasn't putting on a show. He wasn't trying to stir up trouble. He was simply doing His Father's will.

After all, He was God's servant. He was the Messiah! And to prove this, Matthew offers the longest Old Testament quote in the book. Starting in **verse 18**, he quotes from **Isaiah chapter 42, verses 1-4**... proving that Jesus fulfills the Messianic prophecy of **Isaiah 42**.

First, Matthew reveals that Jesus,



has the approval of God (17-18a)

Jesus is God's chosen and beloved servant. Even though He is radically different than what the Jewish people expected from their Messiah...He is the One with whom God is well pleased. **Verse 18** reminds us of the Heavenly Voice at Jesus' baptism back in **chapter 3³⁸**...even though He is despised and rejected by men, Jesus has the approval of God.



Further, He has the power of God (18b)

God the Spirit is upon God the Son by the will of God the Father to empower His preaching of righteousness to all nations.

Only Jesus has the approval of God and the power of God. And in **verse 19**, Matthew wants us to see that Jesus' withdrawal from conflict is not a sign of His weakness. Indeed Jesus fulfills the suffering servant prophecies.



For He has the heart of God (19-20a)

³⁸ Matthew 3:17, c.f. also at the Transfiguration in Matthew 17:5

How do you view God's heart?

Aren't you glad that when you sin, Jesus isn't interested in arguing with you, or shaming you? Jesus is not like the proud, mean-spirited, legalistic rulers of man-made religion. Hallelujah that His mercy is greater than our sin!³⁹

Even though Jesus was often rejected (that's what it means when it says *nor will anyone hear his voice in the streets*) His heart is humble, gentle, and compassionate.

Look at **verse 20** and rejoice – when you are hurt, or weak, Jesus will restore you gently. Jesus has a tender bedside manner with the humble.

For what are His ministry goals?

To bring justice to victory, and cause the Gentiles to hope in His Name. To bring justice to victory means He will accomplish righteousness for all people who trust in Him.

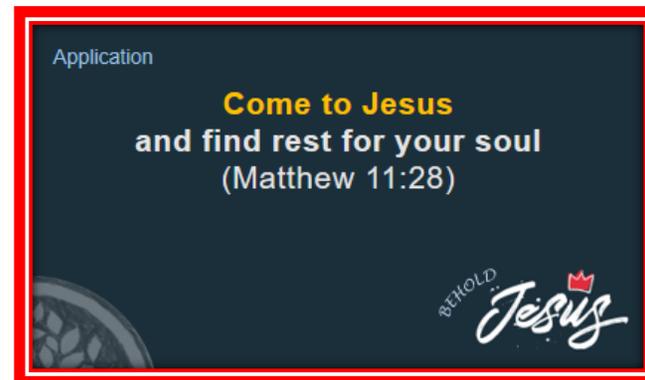
As **Servant**, only Jesus offers the hope of **representation** (15-21)

- He has the **approval** of God (17-18a)
- He has the **power** of God (18b)
- He has the **heart** of God (19-20a)
- He is the **saving hope** for us (20b-21)

In other words, Jesus is the saving hope for us (20b-21)

Matthew is clear. Jesus is not just a Jewish hope. Now that Israel has rejected Jesus, God will bless all the nations through this suffering Messiah.

So dear friend – no matter who you are, or how weak or defeated you may be today... will you come and submit to the servant Lordship of Jesus? He is both Lord and Servant. Jesus is the only way for us to go back to Eden...where God again can have satisfied rest and declare that everything is "very good" with our souls.



So Come to Jesus today, and find eternal rest for your soul (Mt 11:28)

For Jesus is gentle and lowly of heart, and you will find satisfaction for your soul when you reject the yoke of legalism, and rest in Jesus' work alone.

³⁹ Romans 5:20

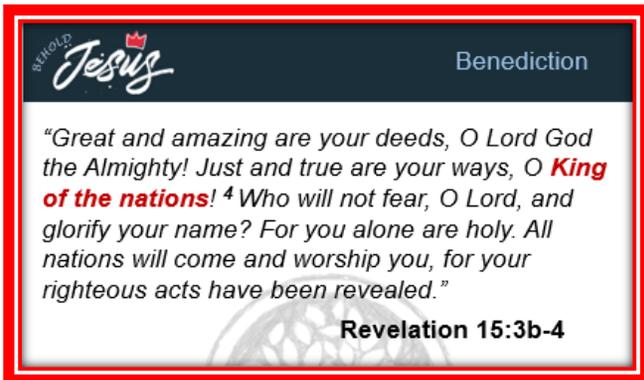


Let's pray.

<<Christ our Hope in Life and Death>>

*Happy Mother's Day!!
Remember to take advantage of the Sermon-Stretcher
Downloads links!*

Let's pray our benediction together as we dismiss.



*Great and amazing are your deeds, O Lord God the Almighty! Just and true are your ways, O King of the nations! Who will not fear, O Lord, and glorify your name? For you alone are holy. All nations will come and worship you, for your righteous acts have been revealed.
Revelation 15:3b-4*

Recommended Resources on The Servant Lord of Rest:

- Exodus 20:8-11
 - Numbers 28:9-10
 - Leviticus 24:5-9
 - Isaiah 42:1-4; 52:13-53:12
 - Hosea 6:6
 - Mark 2:23-28; 3:1-12
 - Luke 6:1-11
 - John 5:1-47
 - Romans 14:5-6
 - 1 Corinthians 13:3
 - Galatians 4:10-11
 - Colossians 2:16-17
 - Hebrews 4:1-11
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- <https://www.gty.org/library/sermons-library/90-379/understanding-the-sabbath>
 - <https://www.gty.org/library/questions/QA135/are-the-sabbath-laws-binding-on-christians-today>
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- *Gentle and Lowly*, Dane Ortlund
 - *The Bruised Reed*, Richard Sibbes
 - *From Sabbath to Lord's Day*, DA Carson

Growing Deeper: Life Group Questions

1. Read Exodus 20:8-11, 31:16-17; Ezekiel 20:12. What was God's purpose for His Sabbath law? Remember that the rainbow was the sign of the Noahic Covenant, circumcision was the sign of the Abrahamic covenant, and the sabbath was the sign of the Mosaic covenant. So what was this day of rest every 7 days supposed to remind Israel about?
2. Read Colossians 2:16-17. Why are Christians no longer under the Sabbath law? (C.f. Hebrews 8:6-13) Are there ways in which you are tempted towards the legalism of "Christian Sabbatarianism" – the belief of some requiring no work on Sunday in order to please God?
3. Review Matthew 11:28-30. Since legalism is so oppressive, why do you believe humans are so prone to put their trust in religious legalism (i.e. seeking to earn God's approval through obedience)? Explain the freedom of true discipleship (i.e. following and imitating Jesus by faith).
4. Review Matthew 11:29 and 12:20. How is Jesus' heart described? How is this true heart of God different from what people expect God's heart to be? How is God's heart different than ours? Contrast the heart of the Pharisees with the heart of Jesus.
5. Discuss together where you tend to struggle with legalism (i.e. believing your obedience earns God's approval). What beliefs help power your repentance from legalism, and fuel your sincere rest in the work of Christ alone?