



Matthew 12:1-21

# THE KING OF SABBATH REST

*Because Jesus fulfilled the Law in His life and His death, all Old Testament laws have to be interpreted through His fulfillment. Sacrifices and ritual and holy days—all change with Christ. So believers today are not bound to keep the Sabbath Day because we have a New Covenant. The Sabbath for us is interpreted through the Christ event—when we believe in Jesus, we enter into the rest He promised (Matt. 11:28), which is the eternal Sabbath. Every day is to be sanctified to the Lord as a day of spiritual rest; the whole life is a Sabbath fulfillment. ...A sanctified life given to the Lord and lived out in salvation's rest from anxious toil and spiritual works is what should characterize the believer who has entered into the Sabbath rest [cf. Rom. 10:4; Gal. 4:9-11, 5:1; Col. 2:11-23; Heb. 4:9-10].* —Allen Ross

Jesus has proven Himself to be the Messiah, the Son of David, the Son of Man, the Son of God, the true Israel—the fulfillment of all that Israel was intended to be. But He, along with the message of the kingdom, is being more and more rejected by the nation.

## THE CHIASTIC STRUCTURE OF MATTHEW 11-12

- A. Jesus Doubted by John the Baptist (11:1-11)
- B. Jesus Demanded by the People to Prove Himself (11:12-19)
- C. Jesus Rejected by the Cities Despite His Works (11:20-24)
- D. Jesus Is the Messiah Who Offers Rest (11:25-30)
- E. Jesus Is the True King over the Sabbath (12:1-8)
- E'. Jesus Is the True Priest of the Sabbath (12:9-14)
- D'. Jesus Is the Servant Who Brings Rest (12:15-21)
- C'. Jesus Rejected by Leaders Despite His Works (12:22-37)
- B'. Jesus Demanded by Leaders to Perform Signs (12:38-45)
- A'. Jesus Doubted by His Own Family (12:46-50)

## THE TRUE KING OVER THE SABBATH (12:1-8)

According to the rabbis, there were \_\_\_\_\_ categories of prohibited activities on the Sabbath. Jesus' disciples broke at least three of them—reaping, threshing, and winnowing (Mk. 2:23-28; Lk. 6:1-5). However, their actions themselves were not unlawful (Deut. 23:25).

- **An example from a \_\_\_\_\_.** David ate consecrated bread (perhaps on the Sabbath) (1 Sam. 21:1-6; Lev. 24:5-9).
- **An exception for the \_\_\_\_\_.** The priests work in the temple on the Sabbath (Numbers 28:1-10).

*Matthew...saw Jesus as the One who actualizes and completes all that God intended for the nation.*

—T. L. Howard

*For Matthew, Jesus Himself is the locus of true Israel. This does not mean that God has no further purpose for racial Israel; but it does mean that the position of God's people in the Messianic Age is determined by reference to Jesus, not race.* —D. A. Carson

*Sabbath observance was one of the three most important and distinctive badges of Jewish life, along with circumcision and the dietary laws.* —Craig Blomberg

*The rules of the Sabbath...are as mountains hanging by a hair, for Scripture is scanty and the rules many.* —Mishnah Chagigah 1:8

*The rabbis overlaid laws upon laws, upon laws, upon laws, upon rituals, routines, rules, restraints, and restrictions that made the Sabbath Day anything but rest. It was the most difficult, limiting, wearying day of the week.*

—John MacArthur, Jr.

- An exhortation from the \_\_\_\_\_. Hosea condemns religious ritual that neglects mercy (Hosea 6:6; cf. Micah 6:6-8).

## THE TRUE PRIEST OF THE SABBATH (12:9-14)

The Pharisees begin watching Jesus closely and looking for ways to accuse Him. They apparently situated a man with a withered hand in the synagogue to see what Jesus would do (Mark 3:1-6; Luke 6:6-11). *Would Jesus heal on the Sabbath in violation of their Sabbath rules?*

- \_\_\_\_\_ > Rules
- \_\_\_\_\_ > Legalism

This episode reveals the hardened hearts of the Pharisees. They are *filled with rage* at Jesus and begin plotting to destroy Him (Luke 6:11).

## THE TRUE FULFILLMENT OF THE PROPHETS (12:15-21)

Isaiah has four Servant Songs (42:1-7; 49:1-13; 50:4-9; 52:13-53:12). Each portray the Messiah as not only the King but also as the Suffering Servant who brings redemption to Israel and light to all the nations.

*Behold! My Servant whom I have chosen,  
My Beloved in whom My soul is well pleased!  
I will put My Spirit upon Him,  
And He will declare justice to the Gentiles.  
He will not quarrel nor cry out,  
Nor will anyone hear His voice in the streets.  
A bruised reed He will not break,  
And smoking flax He will not quench,  
Till He sends forth justice to victory;  
And in His name Gentiles will trust.*

- Jesus is God's chosen and beloved \_\_\_\_\_.
- Jesus is the gentle and humble \_\_\_\_\_.
- Jesus is the compassionate and merciful \_\_\_\_\_.
- Jesus is the true and only \_\_\_\_\_ of the nations.

*Medical treatment for minor discomfort is forbidden on Shabbat, even when no forbidden labor is involved. Only when there is significant suffering do we allow treatment. ...Praying for the sick in the usual way is also forbidden.*

—Rabbi Asher Meir

### Four Stages of Conflict:

1. I desire.
2. I demand.
3. I judge.
4. I punish. —Ken Sande

*Behold, my servant, **the Messiah**, whom I bring, my chosen in whom one delights.*

—Targum Isaiah 42 (~30 BC)

*The identification of the Suffering servant and the Messiah did not take place for the first time in the self-consciousness of Jesus, but it was there from the beginning. In the servant, the priestly and prophetic offices find their divinely ordained integration in and subordination to the royal office.*

—Dirk H. Odendaal

*Here is the quintessential servant and quintessential service. Such service is first unostentatious and un-self-advertising. ...It is a quiet, unaggressive, unthreatening ministry. To this servant, nothing is useless, even the bruised reed. Neither is anything too far gone.*

—J. Alec Moyter

*The servant's task is to **make right** within history all aspects and phases of human existence—whether moral, religious, spiritual, political, social, economic, and so forth—so that the prayer will be fulfilled, "Your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as it is in heaven" (Matt. 6:10).*

—F. Duane Lindsey