

Matthew Lesson II

12:1-14 Lord of the Sabbath

Third Commandment—Remember the Sabbath day by keeping it holy. *What does this mean?* We should fear and love God that we do not despise preaching and his Word, but regard it as holy and gladly hear and learn it.

1. What does the word “Sabbath” mean? (see Leviticus 23:3)
2. Why was it “unlawful” for the disciples to gather food?
3. What two defenses did Jesus give of the disciples?
4. In verse 12 what need is greater than any law restricting work on the Sabbath day?
5. Instead of being happy that Jesus healed the man with the shriveled hand, how did the Pharisees react?
6. What did the Pharisees want to do to Jesus in verse 14 and why?

James 1:22—Do not merely listen to the word, and so deceive yourselves. Do what it says.

12:15-21 God’s Chosen Servant

7. How does the warning Jesus gives in verse 16 for the people “not to tell who he was” become a fulfillment of the prophecy of Isaiah 42:1-4 (or Mt. 12:18-21)?

12:22-37 Jesus and Beelzebub

8. Why did the Pharisees not encourage the people to identify Jesus as “the Son of David” (v. 23)?

Note that the works of Jesus proved that He was whom He said He was, namely, the Son of God having the power of God to do miracles and defeat the affects of sin. If Jesus is the Son of God, then the Pharisees and Jewish rulers were wrong in their teachings, they would have to repent of their sin and follow Jesus which would remove them from power and cut them off from their way to make money and control people.

Jesus uses common sense arguments to prove how absurd/crazy it was to say that Jesus used the power of the devil to defeat the devil. Notice in verse 29 the more logic conclusion to make about Jesus.

Matthew 12:30—“He who is not with me is against me, and he who does not gather with me scatters.”

9. What is the unforgivable sin “against the Holy Spirit” (verse 31-32)?

10. In verse 34 what does Jesus say exposes the true love of a person’s heart?

James 3:6—The tongue also is a fire, a world of evil among the parts of the body. It corrupts the whole person, sets the whole course of his life on fire, and is itself set on fire by hell.

Notice in verses 36-37 how the Lord will not have to expose the sin of people because their own actions will reveal a person as evil or not. We are condemned by our own words.