

## sermon study - Matthew 12:1-21 - Real Rest

### Problem

- Read Isaiah 48:22; 57:20-2. In what ways do people try to distract themselves from this fact?
- Read Matthew 15:1-20. How can religious ritual serve the same purpose?

### Text

#### A Sabbath without mercy (Matthew 12:1-8)

- Was it unlawful for Jesus' disciples to do what they were doing? Read Deuteronomy 23:24-25.
- Read 1 Samuel 21:1-6. Jesus' defense was that something greater than David was there.
- Read Numbers 28:9-10. Jesus' second defense was that a cause greater than the temple was among them.
- Read Hosea 6:4-10. Jesus, in quoting from this section is making the point that they were going against the heart of God (mercy) in their ritual. Jesus is Lord of the Sabbath, not them.

#### A Sabbath without good (Matthew 12:9-14)

- Jesus went into their synagogue to pick a fight. Read John 5:1-18; 7:21-24 and 9:16. The ultimate issue was His identity, not the Sabbath
- Jesus' arguments are summed up in His statement in Mark 2:27.
- Here in we see the problem. They missed the point, the reality that the ritual of the Sabbath observance was pointing to.
  - The Sabbath was a gift to people, but it was never about people.
    - It was a celebration of God's finished work of Creation -Genesis 2:1-3
    - It was a celebration of God's finished work of redemption- Deuteronomy 5:12-15
    - it was given to Israel as a sign and covenant Exodus 31:12-17; Ezekiel 20:12-20, and it represented God's promise and work in setting them apart for the promised rest in the land.
- notice that the Pharisees do plenty of work themselves but they only do evil. There is much sarcasm in Jesus' statement that it is lawful to do god on the Sabbath.

#### Is a Sabbath without rest (Matthew 12:15-21)

- Jesus withdrew from them and the quote from Isaiah speaks of God's temporary setting aside of the nation to turn to the gentiles.
- when they got rid of the reality of the Sabbath - that it was about a person not a day- they got rid of the rest that was offered to them -Jesus withdrew.
- Read Matthew 11:28. Jesus came to offer rest.
- Read Hebrews 4:1-11.

**Main Idea: The sabbath is not about Man or his performance, it is not about saturday nor is it about sunday, it is about today and the finished work of Christ.**

- Read Colossians 2:8-23 for the implications of this for today.

**Implication: Ritual must never replace reality. it may illustrate reality but it can never replace it.**

### Application

*to the non-believer:*

## sermon study - Matthew 12:1-21 - Real Rest

The rituals of Mormonism cannot save you. The rituals of the Jehovahs witnesses cannot save you. Neither can the sacraments of Catholicism, or the water baptism of the Church of Christ, or the Saturday worship and law keeping of the Seventh Day Adventists. Your tongue speaking or ecstatic experience cannot save you, and your walking an aisle for a purpose driven life cannot save you. Salvation is of God, He came to save and He came to give us real rest. Come to Him if you are weary.

*to the believer:*

Do your rituals illustrate the reality of your faith? Does your communion illustrate actual communion or is it merely a performance? Does your fellowship illustrate actual unity or is it a performance? Does your service illustrate actual worship or is it a performance? Is your singing actually praise or merely performance? Come to Him again. Rest in Him now, not later, not after you read or after you pray or after you sing or serve or sacrifice, right where you sit. Rest IN Him.

read the following three resources

<http://www.gotquestions.org/Jesus-Sabbath.html>

<http://carm.org/seventh-day-adventism>

<http://www.gty.org/Resources/Questions/QA135>

Discuss their implications and relevance to the sermon. They will help you see potential ways this message may impact your life right now. Discuss tangible ways to apply this to your life immediately.