

## Episode #801 Matthew 12 Part 2-Victory Without Violence

I. The purpose of the gospel of Matthew is to present Jesus as the Christ, the King of Israel. It is another grand treatise like John to prove to Israel Who Jesus really is. It is the book of being “in Israel,” in contrast to believers today who are “in Christ.”

II. In Matthew 12, the Lord had confronted some of the Pharisees over lawful deeds on the Sabbath. They objected to His disciples picking and eating grain on the Sabbath, but the Lord argued them down. In their local synagogue, there was a man with a withered hand, and the religious leaders, seeking to raise an accusation against Him, ask if it is lawful to heal on the Sabbath. Today, we continue their confrontation over the Sabbath day.

III. Healing the Man with the Withered Hand. Matthew 12:9-14.

- A. Verse 10. “Lawful” is the same word used in verses 2 and 4. Their traditions said you could only heal on the Sabbath if the person was unlikely to live to the next day if you did not. This will be the first recorded miracle of the Lord on the Sabbath, and the only one in Matthew, but probably not His first (see John), since they seem to expect Him to say it is lawful. They wanted to officially accuse Him, catching the Lord Himself in the act, not just His disciples.
- B. Verse 11. The Pharisees loved their wealth, part of which was animals.
- C. Verse 12. “More value” is literally “carries through,” carries more weight. The original point of the Sabbath was to do good for laborers. How could doing good be contrary to the Sabbath, then? But they made the Sabbath an obstacle to doing good!
- D. Verse 13. The Lord spoke and the man’s hand returned to its former state. This is how the Lord’s miracles worked! There was no confusion. The man did not sneak away.
- E. Verse 14. These were the local Pharisees. The Lord completely stymied them. He showed both logically and Scripturally that His teaching was right. Then, without waiting for them to discuss it or even have a chance to admit the truth of it, He acted on His teaching and healed the man. In other words, He acted totally on the authority of God and ignored their authority, offering to them a challenge: would they yield to God’s authority? They wanted Him to in some way acknowledge their authority. If He had waited for them to pass judgment on His argument they might have accepted it. The way He did this was a direct challenge to them, and one they were not willing to abide. Imagine being in a city and the mayor and chief of police and city council were all meeting to see what they could do about you and how to put you to death!

IV. Victory Without Violence. Matthew 12:15-21.

- A. Verse 15. The Lord had defeated them in the realm of ideas, but He was not going to enter into open conflict with them. He is still very popular with the people. Notice that the Lord healed all without distinction. His type of healing!
- B. Verse 16. “Known” is the Greek *phonerōs*, to show Him forth plainly, in other words telling the Pharisees and religious leaders where He is.
- C. Verse 17. “Fulfilled” is *plerōthe*, filled full. Not the fulfillment of Isaiah’s prophecy, for the nations did not trust in Him, etcetera at this time. What He did was in line with what Isaiah said. He did not strive or get into a conflict, in other words. Other things He did were not in line, however. You could have heard His voice in the streets at that time. Yet when the kingdom comes, no one will be able to say He got into a conflict about it, even two thousand years earlier. He quotes Isaiah 42:1-4.

D. Verse 18. This passage is ignored by expositors because it does not fit with their prophetic schemes! This cannot be the second coming of Christ because He descends from heaven with a shout, and some people are going to get hurt, II Thess. 1:7-8.

V. Conclusion: The Lord showed the Pharisees that their view of the Sabbath was inconsistent, caring more about animals than people. Since the Sabbath was for man's good, He showed clearly that it was lawful to do good on that day. They, however, wanted to kill Him for defying their authority. The Lord withdrew so as not to enter open conflict with them, all in line with a prophecy in Isaiah that He would get the victory without violence. Many have no place for this prophecy, since there is violence at His second coming. Yet the Lord's victory is not like man's victory. He will conquer people on the inside. Has His love conquered you? Do you believe in this radical Savior Who died for His enemies?