Matt 12:1-45 “Opposing the King”

**BIG IDEA: Submission and surrender to King Jesus bring present & eternal rest.**

**1) INTRO**

• Large passage today – a few people asked me “why?” this week

• Context –11:16-18 last week

• Jesus brings freedom/rest from Pharisaism/Legalism…extra-biblical

• JC direct opposition…not about following Law, but about authority

**2) vv1-8**

• Opposition &Sabbath

• Disciples are gathering food on the Sabbath – who’s food??

• Can’t just walk into Mountain View Bakery and graze!

• Lev 19 & 23

• Jesus’ disciples are plucking grain & Pharisees are bent out of shape

• “They’re harvesting!”…forbidden…1 of 39 work

• Couldn’t reap/harvest, sew, plow, put out a fire, light a fire, wash wool, knead, bake, carry a possession

• Sabbath was pain in the neck…tiring

• 1st, JC appeals to David – 12 loaves

• 2nd, JC appeals to fact that priests work on the Sabbath – like pastors

• Their work doesn’t condemn them…guiltless”/innocent (v5)

• Something greater than the temple is here – JC & kingdom

• God’s kingdom is one of mercy/compassion

• v7 – “I desire mercy and not sacrifice” - Hosea 6:6

• We saw this in Matthew 9:13

• Stinging rebuke…then and now/here

• Didn’t even focus on heart of the Law

• Missed the message of God’s mercy, patience in OT

• This is shown in Hosea’s marriage to Gomer

• Satisfying hunger’s more important than following unwritten/extra-biblical Sabbath traditions

• JC’s disciples weren’t innocent b/c they were hungry, it was b/c something greater than temple was present… the Lord of the Sabbath!

• Sabbath points to Jesus & the rest he gives us from the impossible task of earning our salvation by good works

• God has been showing me this – can’t counterbalance

• For many Jews in Jesus’ day, the Sabbath was a joyful festival, a reminder of God’s work of creation in 6 days

• JC is King/Creator/God of the Sabbath

**3) vv9-14**

• This certainly doesn’t stop the opposition from the Pharisees…heal

• 1st century Jews talked a lot about what was permitted in caring for the sick on the Sabbath…though no OT text prohibits it

• But, Jesus came saying: it is lawful to do good on the Sabbath

• Sheep falling into a pit on the Sabbath

• Should be much more concerned about people…in image of God!

• Love for animals – dressing them up, sharing ice cream cone with them – baby videos this past week

• We’re not cruel to animals, but people matter more

• v12 – It’s lawful to do good on the Sabbath

**4) vv15-21**

• Jesus withdraws, people follow, & he ministers

• Keep quiet & not bring premature opposition – crucifixion

• These vv quote Isa 42:1-4 to show that this prophecy is fulfilled in JC

• He’s the suffering servant Isaiah spoke of…opposition fulfilled

• Contrast of hatred of Pharisees w/ calm, gentle, merciful Jesus

• Servant-King – Lord & Savior – laid down life for us

• Willingly came to bring hope to the hopeless…to us

**5) vv22-32**

• Continued opposition…accusations that he’s of the devil

• Jesus heals this demon-possessed man and the crowds were amazed

• “Can this be the Son of David?” – the Messiah

• “You’re not gonna eat that, are you?”

• The Pharisees accuse JC of casting out demons by Beelzebul

• Divided homes & kingdoms can’t stand…civil wars

• v27 – there were other Jewish exorcists – even Pharisees

• v28 – the kingdom of God has come

• v29 – Jesus has the power to bind the strong man, Satan

• vv30-32 – when Jesus is working, better be receptive and submissive

• Otherwise, committing unforgivable sin of blasphemy of HS

• Terrifying verses in Bible

• This is to call the work of God’s Spirit the work of Satan

• It involves a willful & decisive rejection of God himself, who alone can bring repentance

• It’s having been shown all the evidence necessary to understand and believe in JC, but yet to reject Jesus

• If we’ve been convicted of our sin by the HS and surrendered to God’s working in us by confession, repentance, and belief in the truth of God’s saving work in Jesus…then we’ve not committed the unforgivable sin

• It’s even been said that if anyone anxiously fears they have committed the unforgivable sin, it shows by their concern that they haven’t committed it

• Which is opposite of the bitterness of Pharisees here

**6) vv33-37**

• When we’re living in surrender & submission to JC, bear good fruit

• When bowed to King Jesus, our attitudes, actions, and *speech*

• Words are important – give account for every word we’ve spoken

• “Words, even carelessly spoken words, are eternally important. Scripture condemns verbal sins such as lies, gossip, or insults as severely as it condemns adultery and murder.”

**7) vv38-42**

• Kingdom of self still reigns in these scribes and Pharisees…they’re still unwilling to submit & surrender to JC

• Opposition demands a sign

• Even though they’ve seen many from JC

• Jesus doesn’t do miracles on demand

• But, JC does point to the most amazing sign ever

• His resurrection from the dead

• Pointing back to Jonah & Queen of the south

• But, JC is here – and he’s greater

**8) vv43-45**

• If we don’t submit to JC, we leave ourselves vulnerable

• Jesus shows us here that just simply getting rid of evil influences in our lives isn’t enough

**5) CONCL**

• The Pharisees struggled to submit to Jesus’ reign and rule

• Thy lived in submission to their own rules

• Who’s reign and rule do we submit to?

• Is JC the authority in our lives?

• Is the Bible the authority in our lives?

• Is God the authority in our lives?

• And, it’s uncomfortable to live in submission to Jesus and his Word sometimes

• Article