



## SMALL GROUP CURRICULUM

Sermon: **“Jesus Angers People by Doing Good” – Matthew 12:9-14**

Date: **February 23, 2020**

In last week’s study, Jesus and his disciples picked grain on the Sabbath for food. The Pharisees accused Jesus of breaking the Sabbath. Jesus defended himself using the Scriptures. We learned that conservatism is wrong if it’s about conserving the wrong thing. This week’s study in Matthew 12:9-14 is really a continuation of last week’s lesson. We’ve learned that Jesus is the master Bible interpreter and this week he’s going to demonstrate that he is also the master healer. He’s going to prove that he is who he says he is by miraculously healing a man with a withered hand. And he’s going to do it on the Sabbath. The Pharisees, before Jesus even heals the man, question Jesus about whether or not it’s lawful to heal on the Sabbath. Jesus winsomely responds to their question, putting them in their place yet again. And after he points out the inconsistencies of their thinking, he proceeds to heal the man before their very eyes. We will learn this week that Jesus is the master healer. He is full of mercy. He can heal and save even the worst of sinners.

What you need for this study: Bible, Notebook, Pen

### Individual Bible Study

1. Please read Matthew 12:9-14 and ensure that you’ve listened to Sunday’s sermon.
  - a. How does this passage (verses 9-14) connect with the passage from last week (verses 1-8)?
  - b. What does it mean that the man had a “withered hand,” (v. 10)? How bad is this condition?
  - c. Why do the Pharisees ask Jesus whether or not it’s lawful to heal on the Sabbath (v. 10)? What does this reveal about the hearts and motives of the Pharisees?
  - d. Explain Jesus’ answer to their question in verses 11-12?
  - e. What does Jesus do next in verse 13? How does this further provoke the Pharisees?
  - f. How do the Pharisees in verse 14 respond to the miraculous healing?



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- g. Compare the actions of Jesus on the Sabbath (v. 13) with the actions of the Pharisees (v. 14)? Who was really guilty of breaking the Sabbath in this text (and last week's)? Why?
- h. What does this passage teach us about the mercy and forgiveness of Jesus? Who did he come to this world for?

### Group Discussion Questions

1. How did the Holy Spirit speak to you through the sermon and the Bible study this week?
2. Is Jesus guilty of breaking the Sabbath in this week or last week's text? Explain your answer and use Scripture to back it up.
3. Again in this week's text the self-righteous Pharisees demonstrate their legalistic thinking. How does legalism lead to a self-righteous attitude? Conversely, how does a proper understanding of the grace of the gospel cultivate humility in one's heart?
4. Jesus deals with his opponents in two different ways in both last week and this week's text. What are these two different ways? What can we learn from his example as we consider how we interact with those that oppose the faith?
5. What does this text teach us about Christ's commitment to mercy? How is he directly applying what we learned last week from Matthew 12:7? How can we apply the truth of Matthew 12:7 (and Hosea 6:6) to our lives?

### Accountability Question

In this week's study, we were reminded through Jesus' miracle that he came to heal and forgive sinners. With this reminder in mind, are there any specific sins in your life that you would like to confess this week?