

# *Who Do You Say That I Am?*

## Seeing and Delighting in Jesus through an Expositional Journey through the **Gospel of Matthew**

### 136- The Son of Man is Lord of the Sabbath- Part 1

Church August 17, 2025

#### **Matthew 11:25-12:21**

**25** At that time Jesus said, "I praise You, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, that You have hidden these things from the wise and intelligent and have revealed them to infants.

**26** Yes, Father, for this way was well-pleasing in Your sight.

**27** All things have been handed over to Me by My Father; and no one knows the Son except the Father; nor does anyone know the Father except the Son, and anyone to whom the Son wills to reveal Him.

**28** "Come to Me, all who are weary and heavy-laden, and I will give you rest.

**29** Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and **YOU WILL FIND REST FOR YOUR SOULS.**

**30** For My yoke is easy and My burden is light."

**12:1** At that time Jesus went through the grainfields on the Sabbath, and His disciples became hungry and began to pick the heads of grain and eat.

**2** But when the Pharisees saw this, they said to Him, "Look, Your disciples do what is not lawful to do on a Sabbath."

**3** But He said to them, "Have you not read what David did when he became hungry, he and his companions,

**4** how he entered the house of God, and they ate the consecrated bread, which was not lawful for him to eat nor for those with him, but for the priests alone?

**5** Or have you not read in the Law, that on the Sabbath the priests in the temple break the Sabbath and are innocent?

**6** But I say to you that something greater than the temple is here.

**7** But if you had known what this means, 'I DESIRE COMPASSION, AND NOT A SACRIFICE,' you would not have condemned the innocent.

**8** "For the Son of Man is Lord of the Sabbath."

**9** Departing from there, He went into their synagogue.

**10** And a man was there whose hand was withered. And they questioned Jesus, asking, "Is it lawful to heal on the Sabbath?"—so that they might accuse Him.

**11** And He said to them, "What man is there among you who has a sheep, and if it falls into a pit on the Sabbath, will he not take hold of it and lift it out?"

**12 How much more valuable then is a man than a sheep! So then, it is lawful to do good on the Sabbath."**

**13 Then He said to the man, "Stretch out your hand!" He stretched it out, and it was restored to normal, like the other.**

**14 But the Pharisees went out and conspired against Him, as to how they might destroy Him.**

**15 But Jesus, aware of this, withdrew from there. Many followed Him, and He healed them all,**

**16 and warned them not to tell who He was.**

**17 This was to fulfill what was spoken through Isaiah the prophet:**

**18 "BEHOLD, MY SERVANT WHOM I HAVE CHOSEN; MY BELOVED IN WHOM MY SOUL is WELL-PLEASED; I WILL PUT MY SPIRIT UPON HIM, AND HE SHALL PROCLAIM JUSTICE TO THE GENTILES.**

**19 "HE WILL NOT QUARREL, NOR CRY OUT; NOR WILL ANYONE HEAR HIS VOICE IN THE STREETS.**

**20 "A BATTERED REED HE WILL NOT BREAK OFF, AND A SMOLDERING WICK HE WILL NOT PUT OUT, UNTIL HE LEADS JUSTICE TO VICTORY.**

**21 "AND IN HIS NAME THE GENTILES WILL HOPE."**

*To the Glory of God the Father; God the Son;  
and God the Holy Spirit. Amen.*

Now as I have told you before- the Chapter Divisions and the Verse Numberings in the Bible are NOT inspired. They are NOT Inerrant; and neither are they Infallible. They were added many Centuries after the "*Original Autographs*" were written by the 40 men on whom God the Holy Spirit "moved"- to give us the Scriptures. And they were added by well-meaning and godly people- who did their best to help us to read and study the Bible. So, there was NO sinister Motive behind why they did what they did.

But the Reality is that, in the Middle East at the Time the Scriptures were developed (about 1450 years)- the Way that men talked and wrote was much *different* than how we communicate in our Day. For example, the ancient Books contained NO "*Table of Contents*" and the Arguments that people put into their Writings were very long and very detailed.

You will notice that in **Matthew 11:28-30** we see the *often* memorized and *greatly* beloved Passage where Jesus said:

**Come to Me, all who are weary and heavy-laden, and I will give you rest. Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and YOU WILL FIND REST FOR YOUR SOULS. For My yoke is easy and My burden is light.**

And this Passage is often preached and taught from the Standpoint of how Gentle and Kind and Loving and Merciful our dear Savior really is- as He invites ALL men to come to Him and rest. And I certainly agree that Jesus is just that Gentle; and just that Kind; and just that Loving; and just that Merciful and He *absolutely does* desire that lost people “come to Him”- so they may rest!

But I would suggest to you that when you read that Passage in its correct Context- you MUST attach that wonderful Statement that our Lord spoke in the last three verses of Chapter 11 to the first 21 verses of Chapter 12 that contains the much *larger* Discussion about the Sabbath. Because what Jesus was doing by making that Statement was to teach that He ALONE is “*Lord of the Sabbath*”!

Now we know that the Scribes and Pharisees were the most visible religious Leaders of 1<sup>st</sup> Century Israel. And there were three main Issues that the Scribes and Pharisees “hung their hat” on during the Time they were in Power:

1. Their Understanding of the Old Testament Scriptures
2. What they believed and taught about the Temple in Jerusalem
3. What they believed and taught about the Sabbath

It was in these three Issues where the *majority* of the Pharisees’ Effort was focused; and where the *majority* of the Conflict with Jesus centered around.

Now there certainly were other Issues that the Pharisees taught (and were completely wrong about)- including:

- Eschatology (Last Things)
- The Removal of the pagans from Israel
- Re-constituting the historic Kingdom of Israel
- Repatriating the dispersed Jews
- Waging war against the pagan Nations

... but the three Issues of *the OT Scriptures; the Temple; and the Sabbath* dominated their Efforts. To my Knowledge, Jesus barely mentioned (if at all) any of those other Issues the entire Time He was here on the earth.<sup>1</sup>

For example, the Pharisees held themselves out as being “Experts” of the 39 Books of the Old Testament. And their supposed Knowledge of what God had already given to Moses and the Prophets was so renown and so accepted by the

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<sup>1</sup> If those other Issues were the Will of God- then it must be explained WHY Jesus never taught about them.

vast majority of Jews in the 1<sup>st</sup> Century- that it absolutely *overshadowed* any Effort by the Levitical Priests during the Time Jesus walked the earth! In fact, as you read the four gospel Records- you will be hard pressed to find ANY Reference at all- about the Levitical Priests during the *entire* earthly Ministry of Jesus!

So, as Jesus walked the earth- a completely *unbiblical* Ministry that God NEVER created by anything He spoke to Moses- literally *dominated* the religious Life of the average Jew! And to this Day- what the average Jew is taught and believes is NOT the correct Exposition of the Old Testament- but the ungodly and unbiblical and sinful Interpretation of the Pharisees!

Now we know by reading the Bible that satan is basically a Coward. Satan attacks people at their *weakest* Link; their *most secret* Fear; at their most *vulnerable* Point; and at the very *worst* Moment of their Lives. But God is NOT satan and God doesn't do that. God deals with people- at the Point of where they are supposedly the *strongest*; the place where they are the *most* Confident; and at the Moment of their *greatest* Achievements.

You see, God is ALWAYS Right- about EVERYTHING! And so, God does NOT fear what people already believe and how they think. God knows that, when presented with absolute Divine Truth- whatever people already believe and teach- that is contrary to God's Truth- will melt away!

And so, when Jesus confronted the Pharisees, He confronted them at these three Points- where those wayward and unsaved religious Hypocrites thought they were the Strongest. And so, Jesus would periodically say things like,

**“Have you not read”? (Matthew 12:3,5; 19:4; 22:31; Mark 12:6)**

... which was an Insult to their face- and was spoken as a “Divine Rebuke” against them because of the Reality of their sinful Ignorance of the Old Testament Scriptures. And Jesus would also say things like,

**Matthew 5:43**

**You have heard that it was said, 'YOU SHALL LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR and hate your enemy.**

Now this is one reason I love the NASB (Update 1995) version of the English Bible. You will notice in verse 43- in the part where Jesus is quoting what God spoke to Moses back in **Leviticus 19:18**- is in all capital Letters. That is because God Almighty spoke those words to Moses; and they are Inspired; Inerrant; and Infallible. But notice that after that- the phrase, **“and hate your enemy”** is NOT in all caps. And that is because that phrase was NOT spoken by God. That phrase was a sinful, Man-made “Addition” to the Scriptures that the

Pharisees had *invented*- that literally *corrupted* the Understanding of the entire Commandment in the minds of the Listeners!

First of all- if God spoke something- that which God spoke- is PERFECT! WHATEVER God said is Inspired; Inerrant; and Infallible (rightly and fully interpreted) and DOES NOT possess the Ability to be in Error! So, what God spoke does NOT need to be “Improved” or “Brought into modern Thinking” or “Enhanced”. And what we are to do with what God spoke- is to read it; study it; learn it; believe it; love it; obey it; teach it; proclaim it; and defend it!

And, of course, this is WHY I completely *reject* the Notion that “Prophecy” - in the sense of someone supposedly having the Gift of being able to predict the Future- is a viable Gift from the Holy Spirit in our Day. And this is why I also completely *reject* the Notion that anyone has the Gift of *receiving* new, Divine Revelation directly from God in our Day. *Whatever* God speaks is Inspired; Inerrant; and Infallible. And there are NO Degrees to that. There is no such thing as something that God spoke being *partially* True; or *somewhat* Inspired; or that it *possesses* the Ability to ever be in any Error!

God either spoke something- or He didn't. And if God spoke something- what He spoke is *completely* Inspired; *totally* Inerrant; and absolutely *incapable* of being in Error of any Kind! But that means that *whatever* God spoke is “Scripture”! So, being a Bible-believing Christian- REQUIRES that we believe that the Canon of sacred Scripture (the 66 Books of the Holy Bible)- is CLOSED! EVERYTHING that God wanted to reveal to Man- has been revealed! So, the Canon is a *finished* and *completed* Canon- that CANNOT and SHOULD NOT be added to; or taken away from!

So, if we are in a Church Service and somebody gets up and utters a supposed “*Word from the Lord*”- we MUST judge it. And here is how we are to judge that “Word”. If that Utterance is “in accord” with Scripture- we DON'T need it- because we already have the Scriptures. And so, in that case- we should discard that Word. But if that “Utterance” is *contrary* to the Scriptures- we CANNOT and MUST NOT receive it- precisely because being “Sola Scriptura” means that the FINAL Authority that trumps any and all other Authority on earth- is the Scriptures and the Scriptures ALONE! And so, *anything* spoken by *anyone*- that is *contrary* to the Word of God- is Wrong!

We are NEVER to add to the Scriptures; or take away from it; or change it! But that's *exactly* what the Pharisees did the entire Time they were in Power. And they changed it so much- that when they got through with it- what they taught the people; what the people were taught- had NOTHING to do with what God actually spoke!

Another Way of understanding this is to say that the Pharisees actually *created* a completely DIFFERENT Religion that was totally separate from the one, true, Religion that God Himself gave to Moses and the Prophets!

So, by adding the Phrase, “**and hate your enemy**” to the Command to “**love your neighbor as yourself**” teaches God’s people that in order to please God- they **MUST** hate other human beings. And that is Evil! The Bible teaches that we are to hate Sin; hate what sinful people *do*; hate what Sin *causes*; hate satan; and hate what satan *does* and *causes*. But we are NOT to hate people- precisely because they were made in the Image and Likeness of God! We can and we should *rebuke* them; *chastise* them; *arrest* them; *incarcerate* them; *cast* them out; and even, in rare cases, *kill* them<sup>2</sup>. But we CANNOT “hate” another human being.

Now God CAN hate whatever and whoever He desires. And that is because God’s Hatred- is a *pristine* and *perfect* Derivative of His Righteousness. God’s Wrath; His Damnation; His Judgment and His Hatred all flow out from His Righteousness and are all PERFECT! While our Hatred is fleshly; earthly; carnal; sinful; dark; ugly; biased; uneven; wicked; evil; and ALWAYS Wrong! And that is *why* Jesus had to go on and say,

#### **Matthew 5:44-48**

**44 But I say to you, love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, 45 so that you may be sons of your Father who is in heaven; for He causes His sun to rise on the evil and the good, and sends rain on the righteous and the unrighteous.**

**46 For if you love those who love you, what reward do you have? Do not even the tax collectors do the same?**

**47 If you greet only your brothers, what more are you doing than others? Do not even the Gentiles do the same?**

**48 Therefore you are to be perfect, as your heavenly Father is perfect.**

And because the Pharisees’ false Teaching about who to *love* and who to *hate*- *dominated* the hearts and minds of the average Jew of the 1st Century- the ONLY Question the 1<sup>st</sup> Century Jews had was- “*Who is my Neighbor?*”- because they were *commanded* to ONLY love their Neighbor! And the Pharisees gave them License to hate everybody else!

And that is why Jesus taught the Parable of the “*Good Samaritan*” (**Luke 10:25-37**)- that showed that our “Neighbor” is:

**WHOEVER crosses our Path that Day- regardless of their spiritual Condition**

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<sup>2</sup> According to **Genesis 9:6**, people, who have committed Murder, may be put to Death.

Now remember that the “Samaritans” were Jews, who had *intermarried* with the Babylonians; and who had fabricated their own hybrid Religion- that was a cross between what God gave to Moses and what the Babylonians had. And the Samaritans were considered by the “pure Jews” to be “half-breeds” and “unclean”- even pagans- and according to the Teaching of the Pharisees- the Samaritans *could* and *should be*- hated!

And yet, in the Parable- the dirty, deceived, unclean, pagan Samaritan was the ONLY person, who acted in a godly Way. And, of course, the Parable itself is a “Divine Rebuke” against the Self-righteous Pharisees who taught (and practiced) we should hate our Enemies.

So, the Meaning of the Parable is that people are NOT “Good” based on NOT loving or caring for the Lost- like the Pharisees taught. People are “Good” if they “DO GOOD”- if they care. If they love. And if people don’t care or they only love people who they agree with- then they are “NOT GOOD” at all.

But here’s the Catch. If the lost Sinner cares and loves- even to those with whom he disagrees- then the lost, pagan Sinner is “GOOD”- by this Standard- even though he is NOT saved. And so, in that case- the lost Sinner is a *better* Example of Godliness and the Teachings of Jesus- than the one who is supposedly chosen. And that should NEVER be.

So, if Jesus was on the earth today and taught this Parable down here in the “Bible Belt”- with *nominal* Believers- it *might* be called, the “*Parable of the Good Homosexual*” or the “*Parable of the Good Liberal*” or the “*Parable of the Good Democrat*”- because those are Groups who are, at times, “hated” by the one who is supposedly saved. And the Lesson here is, “*NEVER allow the lost pagan Sinner to ‘out-love’ you!*”

And if Jesus taught this Parable today to the godless Leaders, who promote Communism; Liberalism; Socialism; and sexual Perversity on others- this Parable might be, the “*Parable of the Good Bible-banging do-Gooder*”; or the “*Parable of the Good Conservative Christian*”- because those are Groups that many on the Left *love* to hate.

So, the Issue with Jesus and the Pharisees was- they had perverted the “Right Way” of the Lord and were teaching, believing, and practicing things that God NEVER said; and things that were actually *contrary*- even the Opposite- to what God *did* say.

And that means that they really didn’t understand the Old Testament Scriptures at all. And so, their Claim to be “Experts” of the mosaic Law and everything else that went with it- was a *false* Claim- precisely because they completely missed; overlooked; and even condemned the main Focus of the entire

39 Books of the Old Covenant- which was Jesus- even when He stood right in front of them! And you really CAN'T get any more Deceived than that!

Now I understand that what I am about to teach you will be far different from what many of you have been taught in the Past. But I have made a Covenant with all of you that I will be faithful to preach the Word of God- in its correct Context- without Fear or Fail. And so, buckle-up and please turn with me to read **Matthew 24:1** that says:

**Jesus came out from the temple and was going away when His disciples came up to point out the temple buildings to Him.**

Now the Phrase, **“to point out the temple buildings to Him”** means that Jesus' Disciples, who at that Time, were still under the ungodly Influence of the Pharisees and their unbiblical Religion- were bragging to Jesus how Beautiful; Wonderful; Glorious; and Important the Temple (and all the other buildings that were attached to the Temple) was to their Salvation and their Worship of God. The “sister Verse” in **Mark 13:1** says,

**As He was going out of the temple, one of His disciples said to Him, "Teacher, behold what wonderful stones and what wonderful buildings!"**

... which shows us just how impressed the Disciples were with those Buildings. And the good Doctor *infallibly* wrote this in **Luke 21:5...**

**... some were talking about the temple, that it was adorned with beautiful stones and votive gifts,**

Now a **“votive Gift”**<sup>3</sup> (*anathema*; Greek; Strong's #334) is an Object that had been given and placed within a sacred Place by people hoping to gain Favor with certain Deities. So, by Default- those Gifts were “pagan” in Nature. But the Fact that the Pharisees *allowed* lost Unbelievers to deposit those pagan Trinkets in what was supposedly THE SINGLE MOST SACRED PLACE in all of Israel- illustrates how Ungodly and Lost the Pharisees really were! Those unsaved religious Leaders were actually *encouraging* the Jews to try to EARN Favor with God by giving those “votive Gifts”!

Now Moses and every single one of the Old Testament Prophets would have rebuked and condemned what the Pharisees were promoting and teaching-

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<sup>3</sup> “Votive Gifts” were dedicated to God for the Honor of the people offering them. Such Offerings could be Shields, Chaplets, golden Chains, and Candlesticks. Such were and still are common in heathen temples. (from The Complete Word Study Dictionary: New Testament © 1992 by AMG International, Inc. Revised Edition, 1993)

precisely because it was *categorically* the very antithesis of EVERYTHING they believed and taught while they were alive.

And so, by the Time Jesus walked the earth- the Temple in Jerusalem- that had been *completely* refurbished and embellished by the pagan Ruler- King Herod- had become NOTHING but a home of “**every form of creeping things and beasts and detestable things**” (Ezekiel 8:10) and had become a Place that was actually fighting AGAINST God- by deceiving people with false Teaching! And the Pharisees were the “Ringleaders” of this Abomination! And that explains Jesus’ *visceral* Reaction to all the Pomp and Beauty and Man-made “glory” surrounding the Temple that we see in **Matthew 24:2**. Because as soon as the Disciples were finished bragging about how Wonderful the Temple was, God Incarnate said,

**... Do you not see all these things? Truly I say to you, not one stone here will be left upon another, which will not be torn down.**

... while John Mark *infallibly* wrote that Jesus said this in **Mark 13:2**:

**Do you see these great buildings? Not one stone will be left upon another which will not be torn down.**

.. and the Apostle Paul’s personal Physician was “moved” by God the Holy Spirit to write Jesus’ words in **Luke 21:6**:

**As for these things which you are looking at, the days will come in which there will not be left one stone upon another which will not be torn down.**

Now you have to explain this. *Why* would God the Son desire to utterly *destroy* what God the Father told the Jews to build? Was Jesus acting in Rebellion to His Father by promising this about the Temple?

We have to understand that God is the One, who told David to build what became “Solomon’s Temple” in the first Place back in the 10<sup>th</sup> Century BC. And when the people *abandoned* the Law of Moses and committed “*spiritual Adultery*” with the lost pagan Nations of the World- God is the One, who “moved” on the Babylonians around 587 BC. to invade Israel and tear that Temple down. So, the tearing down of the Temple was done by God- precisely because the people God had called to Himself were NOT following or obeying Him- gladly!

And God is also the One, who later “moved” on Zerubbabel- a *repentant* Jew, who had been *humbled* by God using pagans to enact His Correction on His Nation- to *rebuild* the Temple between 520 & 516BC.

So, the original Temple was destroyed by God for Unbelief and Sin

on the part of His people. And when those people repented- God moved on somebody to *restore* the Temple in Jerusalem.

But after the 2<sup>nd</sup> Temple had been used for over 500 years- a very strange thing happened. After over 500 years of use- the Temple was literally falling apart. And so, the evil, wicked “Herod the Great”- who was a Gentile; and a man, who murdered his own Family- went about to curry Favor with the Jews and undertook a massive Expansion and a Renovation of that 2<sup>nd</sup> Temple, that began around 18 BC. and lasted until around 64 AD! This is why the 2<sup>nd</sup> Temple was referred to as, “*Herod’s Temple*” as opposed to naming it after one of the godly Jews.

Now even though they taught that a good Jew should not even look at a Gentile- the hypocritical Pharisees thought it was just wonderful that a violent and pagan Gentile King rebuilt their Temple and that it was named after that evil man!

But History tells us that Jesus’ Prophecy concerning the complete Destruction of the Temple in Jerusalem was *fulfilled* by God “moving” on the pagan Romans to “ride in from the north Country”; wage War against the Jews; and utterly annihilate the Jews as well as the Temple around 70AD. And to this Day- over 2,000 years later- the Temple has NEVER been rebuilt.

Now if we were to ask WHY Jesus promised to destroy what God the Father commanded to be built- some in our Day would answer: “*For the SAME reason God used pagans to tear down Solomon’s Temple! The Jews of the 1<sup>st</sup> Century were sinning and had abandoned the Law of Moses and God was exercising ‘Divine Correction’ against them- just like He did with the 1<sup>st</sup> Temple. And as soon as they repent- God will ‘move’ on somebody to build a 3<sup>rd</sup> Temple!*”

Now that sounds Great; and many people today believe that. But I suggest to you that there is a very large biblical Problem with that Logic that exists today- that did NOT exist during the Destruction of the 1<sup>st</sup> Temple and the building of the 2<sup>nd</sup> one.

And the very large Problem with that Logic- is Jesus! At the Destruction of the 1<sup>st</sup> Temple- the Sin of the people was that they had *neglected* and even *abandoned* the Law of Moses; and had adopted the sinful “Ways” of the lost Gentile World. And so, with *those* Old Testament Jews- “Repentance” looked like them RETURNING to the Commands; and the Statutes and the Ordinances; and the Ceremonies of the Law of Moses- *including* animal Sacrifices; dietary Restrictions; being taught by the Levitical Priesthood; as well as them submitting to the Authority of the Sanhedrin Court! In other words, the Sin of the Jews that *precipitated* the Destruction of Solomon’s Temple by the Babylonians was that they had “left off” obeying the God-given Teachings of the OLD Covenant!

But the Sin of the Jews that *precipitated* the Destruction of Herod’s Temple- after Jesus ascended into Heaven- was the Sin of them *rejecting* Jesus as God Almighty in human Flesh; Immanuel; and the genuine Messiah- that they were

supposedly waiting on! And so, one of the Reasons the 3<sup>rd</sup> Temple has NEVER been built- even after 2 millennia- is because Repentance now does NOT mean for the Jew to return to glad Obedience to the Law of Moses and adherence to the Old Covenant. Now, Repentance for the Jew looks like a full Embrace of the Lord Jesus- as God- and a full ABANDONMENT of the Old Covenant by fully embracing the New! Yet if they DID embrace Jesus and the New Covenant- then they would even need a Temple!

Because the other Reason the 3<sup>rd</sup> Temple has NEVER been built in Jerusalem- is because God is now FINISHED with the Temple made with hands- where animals were sacrificed by the Levitical Priests! You see, since Jesus has come; and lived; and died; and has risen again- there is NO FURTHER NEED for a Temple in Jerusalem- precisely because there is no further Need for animal Sacrifices; or the Levitical Priesthood; or the Sanhedrin Court; or the Dietary and Ceremonial aspects of the Law of Moses; or any of the Symbols that pertain to the Old Covenant!

In the superior New Covenant- ALL of the Signs; Symbols; and Representations found in the Old Covenant have given Way to the Reality of the New! And so, for Example, there is NO Distinction between a Jew or a Gentile (**Galatians 3:28**)- because ALL Believers are “chosen by God”- and are now a “**Kingdom of Priests**” (**The Revelation 1:6**); Jesus is the “**once for ALL**” Sacrifice (**Romans 6:10; Hebrews 7:27; 9:12; 10:10; 1Peter 3:18; Jude 3 &5**); we now have a “**Heavenly Temple**” (**The Revelation 11:19**); as well as a “**New Jerusalem**” (**The Revelation 3:12; 21:2**)!

So, until the Jews repent and trust in Jesus- they are “cut off” from the Blessings and the Promises of God- as well as Salvation itself! And any Attempt now- after Jesus has lived and died and has risen again- to build a Temple- so the Jew can *re-instate* both the Levitical Priesthood as well as animal Sacrifices- would represent a sinful and blatant Rejection of Jesus; as well as the New Covenant- and would constitute the Jews committing an Abomination!

And that’s why Jesus *categorically* condemned the Pharisees’ Understanding of the Temple in Jerusalem and promised its complete Destruction! Now I will get into all this about the Temple in great Detail when we get to **Matthew 23-25**- which we will be in- in just a few more years.

But perhaps the Area of the *greatest* amount of false Teaching from the Pharisees centered around their wayward; unbiblical; and even sinful Teaching about the Sabbath. But in order for us to understand how wrongly the Pharisees had become about this Issue- *requires* us to do some Investigation, first.

Back when God was bringing the Children of Israel out of Egypt’s Bondage and into the Promised Land- to establish the Jewish Kingdom- God instructed Moses to go up into Mt. Sinai and while there- God sovereignly gave

him what we call today, the “*Ten Commandments*”. And the *fourth* Commandment concerned what God Himself called, the “*Sabbath*”. So, let’s read **Exodus 20: 8-11**:

**8 “Remember the sabbath day, to keep it holy.**

**9 “ Six days you shall labor and do all your work,**

**10 but the seventh day is a sabbath of the Lord your God; in it you shall not do any work, you or your son or your daughter, your male or your female servant or your cattle or your sojourner who stays with you.**

**11 “For in six days the Lord made the heavens and the earth, the sea and all that is in them, and rested on the seventh day; therefore the Lord blessed the sabbath day and made it holy.**

Now when God revealed Creation to Moses- God “moved” on that man to write in **Genesis** that a “*Day*”- in human Time- *begins* at the “*Evening*” and then ends at the “*Morning*”. So, to the Jews a “*Day*” *begins* at “*Sundown*” and *ends* at Sundown of the *next* Day. So, the “*7<sup>th</sup> Day*”- or the “*Sabbath Day*” *begins* at Sundown on Friday and *ends* at Sundown on Saturday.

And that was established by God Himself. And so, it was “*set in Concrete*”- with absolutely NO change allowed- by *anyone* for *any* Reason! So, for example, God the Holy Spirit “moved” on Moses to write **Exodus 31:12-18** that says,

**12 The Lord spoke to Moses, saying,**

**13 “But as for you, speak to the sons of Israel, saying, ‘You shall surely observe My sabbaths; for this is a sign between Me and you throughout your generations, that you may know that I am the Lord who sanctifies you.**

**14 ‘Therefore you are to observe the sabbath, for it is holy to you. Everyone who profanes it shall surely be put to death; for whoever does any work on it, that person shall be cut off from among his people.**

**15 ‘For six days work may be done, but on the seventh day there is a sabbath of complete rest, holy to the Lord; whoever does any work on the sabbath day shall surely be put to death.**

**16 ‘So the sons of Israel shall observe the sabbath, to celebrate the sabbath throughout their generations as a perpetual covenant.’**

**17 “It is a sign between Me and the sons of Israel forever; for in six days the Lord made heaven and earth, but on the seventh day He ceased from labor, and was refreshed.”**

**18 When He had finished speaking with him upon Mount Sinai, He gave Moses the two tablets of the testimony, tablets of stone, written by the finger of God.**

Now this Passage in **Exodus 31** goes into much *more* Detail than what God told Moses during the giving of the “*Decalogue*” (10 Commandments) in **Exodus 20**. Because here, among many things- we see four very important things:

1. The Sabbath was a specific “Day”
2. The *Seriousness* of “Keeping the Sabbath”
3. The *Penalty* for NOT “Keeping the Sabbath”
4. How long the Concept of “Keeping the Sabbath” would be in force

Now we have already learned that the “Sabbath” was a specific “24- hour Day” that *began* at Sundown on Friday and *ended* at Sundown on Saturday. And God told Moses about the *Seriousness* of “*Keeping the Sabbath*”, when He said,

**... this is a sign between Me and you throughout your generations, that you may know that I am the Lord who sanctifies you. Therefore you are to observe the sabbath, for it is holy to you... For six days work may be done, but on the seventh day there is a sabbath of complete rest, holy to the Lord**

... and then God told Moses what the Penalty would be when anyone did NOT “*Keep*” or who “*violated*” the Command to “*Keep the Sabbath*”, when He said,

**Everyone who profanes it shall surely be put to death; for whoever does any work on it, that person shall be cut off from among his people... whoever does any work on the sabbath day shall surely be put to death.**

... and then God told Moses how long the Command to “*Keep the Sabbath*” would last, when He said,

**... this is a sign between Me and you throughout your generations... the sons of Israel shall observe the sabbath, to celebrate the sabbath throughout their generations as a perpetual covenant...**

... and this *seems* to be pretty much “cut and dried”!

There really doesn’t seem to be *any way* for *anyone* to mitigate; ignore; or violate the Commandment concerning the Sabbath and remain in “Right Standing” with God- or to even remain living! And that is why from the Time God gave this

to Moses- until yesterday (August 16, 2025)- the Jewish people- have- *by and large- continued* to “*Keep the Sabbath*” from Sundown Friday until Sundown Saturday! And this “*Sabbath Keeping*” is *part* of what makes the Jewish people to be “Distinct”; “Separate”; “Different”; “Set-Apart”; or “Holy”!

And yet, when we read **Matthew 12:1-5**- we see that when the Pharisees condemned Jesus for *violating* the “*Keeping of the Sabbath*”- in accord with what God told Moses- He went so far as to not only justify His *own* Violation; but to say that King David as well as the Levitical Priests under the Old Covenant also violated the “*Keeping of the Sabbath*” and yet Jesus said they all remained, “innocent”!

But even as we try to understand that- we also see that when God the Father raised Jesus from the Dead- He did NOT raise Jesus on the Sabbath! God raised Jesus AFTER the Sabbath was finished- at some point AFTER Midnight of Saturday but BEFORE the Women came to the Tomb- very early on Sunday Morning!<sup>4</sup>

This is the Reason *why* Christians began to gather together to Worship on Sunday morning- even BEFORE the New Testament was completed! Because EVERY Sunday Worship Service is both a “Reminder” as well as a “Celebration” of the Resurrection of Jesus!

Now all through the “*Church Age*” (*the Last Days*)- there have *always* been some *wayward* people and Groups, who can’t seem to get all of this in their minds and hearts, who gather together to worship on Saturday- *usually* Saturday Morning. And to them- they are being Faithful to “*Keep the Sabbath*” in the SAME WAY God instructed Moses as He was establishing the *First* or the *Old* Covenant.

Also, to many of those *same* people- those of us- who DO understand the Bible correctly; and who do NOT gather together on Saturday; but who worship God on the “*First Day of the Week*” (Sunday)- which the Apostle John infallibly called, the “**Lord’s Day**” (**The Revelation 1:10**), are actually *sinning* and are being Rebellious to the Word of God! And some go even so far as to believe and teach that if we do NOT repent and start “*Keeping the Sabbath*” the Way that God told Moses- we are NOT saved; and we will NOT go to Heaven!

And some of *those* people- like the “*Seventh Day Adventists*”- believe and teach that the ONLY Reason we gather together and worship on Sunday- is because we are “*bowing our knees*” to the Roman Pope- who, along with the Roman Emperor, Constanine- back in 325AD- COMMANDED the Christians to honor the “sun-god” by gathering together and worshipping on Sunday! Also, *some*

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<sup>4</sup> The Bible does NOT say that Jesus was raised early on Sunday morning. It says that the Jewish Women went to the Tomb early Sunday morning to give Jesus a proper Burial- and when they got there- He was ALREADY raised! But to fulfill the 3-Day Requirement in Scripture- Jesus HAD to be in the Ground for at least a PART of Friday, Saturday, as well as Sunday- which means that Jesus could ONLY have raised from the Dead at some point on Sunday AFTER midnight on Saturday. So, even if Jesus rose from the Dead- at some point after Midnight Saturday and the Dawn on Sunday- it would still be AFTER the Sabbath was over!

of the 7<sup>th</sup> Day Adventists go so far as to believe and teach that by us worshipping on Sunday- we are actually “*taking the Mark of the Beast*” and CANNOT be either forgiven or saved!<sup>5</sup>

So, what *should* we believe and teach about the Sabbath? And just *how* do we make sense of what *seems* to be several serious Contradictions and even Violations between what God gave Moses and what the New Testament teaches as well as how we Christians operate today?

And as we do this- I will walk you through each Step that will, by God’s Help, reveal the Answer to, at least, four Questions:

1. *WHAT* did God tell Moses and what does it actually *mean*?
2. *What* IS the Sabbath and *HOW* do we “*Keep it*”?
3. *HOW* may we Christians *purposefully* NOT gather together to worship between Sundown Friday and Sundown Saturday and yet, still be Obedient and Pleasing to God?
4. *WHAT* did Jesus mean by what He said in both **Matthew 11:28-30** as well as **Matthew 24:2**?
5. *HOW* all of this ties in with Jesus *fulfilling* the Law of Moses and then *instituting* the glorious New Covenant

... and I will go over every bit of this- *systematically*- Issue-by-Issue over the next several Weeks- using the Concept of “*Sola Scriptura*” and by using that Concept in its correct “*Context*”.

But I ask for your Prayers. This is a very serious; complex; and very controversial Subject. So, why would I try to tackle such a big Subject? Because I can’t avoid it. It is the next Subject in our verse-by-verse “Journey” through the **Gospel of Matthew**. So, I have this to do.

But as with every single one of my Sermons; Bible Studies; and Radio Broadcasts- I seek to bring Honor and Glory to my Lord and Savior by “*getting the Gospel Right*” and preach it; teach it; and herald it- *rightly and fully*. I also seek to help you- the people I love the most- to understand God’s Word- *rightly and fully*.

I realize that some or even much of this may not “sit well” with some of you. But I promise that I am NOT trying to simply be “Controversial”. I genuinely want to understand the Issues that are found in God’s Word, myself. And some of those Issues are very easy to read; very easy to teach; and very easy to learn. And I thank God for that. But there are other Issues found in God’s Word that are *enormously* Complicated; and they are *hard* to read; *hard* to teach; and *hard* to learn. And I thank God for those, too. Because I honestly do NOT believe that we are “better off” by *avoiding* the hard and difficult Issues and only getting into the

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<sup>5</sup> While many Seventh Day Adventists do NOT believe or teach that- it IS the formal and Official Doctrine of the Seventh Day Adventist Church.

simple and easy ones. All of God's Word is Inspired; Inerrant; and Infallible. All of God's Word was given to us by God and is, therefore, for us. And so, I have this to do.

I am NOT trying to "fit in" with anybody except Jesus. But I do believe that many of the Leaders of the Church- who have gone on before us- were as "right as rain" about some very important and controversial Issues. And so, I value what they said and taught and wrote and I want to be- at least- in the same ballpark as they were.

But it wasn't until most of them were Dead- that what they taught was appreciated. So, if you disagree with some or any of what I will be teaching- I invite you to call or talk to me. I vow to you that I will NOT preach ANYTHING- unless I *genuinely* and *honestly* believe- with all my heart, soul, mind, and strength- that it is the correct Understanding of that verse or Passage. I would rather cut both of my legs off and bleed to Death before I would ever- *knowingly*- lead any of you astray. I don't want to be deceived *myself*. But I sure don't want to deceive somebody else- because I tremble before God and understand how severely God would judge me if I did that. And so, I work very hard- every single Day- to *earn* your Trust; and I take it very seriously- to ONLY preach what I *genuinely* believe is my very best Effort to get it right. And I simply do NOT know how to be any more Honest than that.

But if there is a Statement I make or a theological Point I make that you have never heard before or that you think I may be getting off- base about- all I ask is for you to love me enough to give me the Benefit of the Doubt- until you have the chance to talk with me. And I will promise you this: If we begin to understand God's Word- *correctly*- no matter how different it may appear to be- at first- we will NEVER regret that we did this; and walked this Way- because the End of the Matter will be- that we will see Jesus- the Treasure of the Universe- as He actually is- and we will hear Our Savior say, "*Well done, Good and Faithful Servant!*"

Amen. Let's pray.

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The Grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit. Amen. Be watchful and quicken your Pace. Soli Deo Gloria. For the Glory of God ALONE!