

THE ONE

Sermon Discussion Questions

Matthew 12:1-14 // Something Greater

- How does Matthew tie together this passage (12:1-14) with the famous passage we looked at last week (11:28-30)? Why is that significant?
- How important was the Sabbath to the Jewish people at Jesus's time? What part did the Pharisees play in maintaining focus on the importance of the Sabbath?
- How easy is it, do you think, for the Pharisees (and us!) to forget why we're engaging in particular religious practices, like the Sabbath? Do you ever face a similar temptation?
- Was there anything wrong with Jesus and his disciples picking and eating a bit of wheat on their short walk to the synagogue?
- After the Pharisees confront Jesus, how does he raise the level of the debate?
- What significance does the story of David have for Jesus's argument?
- What about the temple regulations that allowed "work" on the Sabbath?
- Why does Jesus quote Hosea 6:6?
- What does Jesus's final claim in 12:8, that he is Lord of the Sabbath, mean for his interaction with these Pharisees?
- In the second Sabbath controversy—about healing a man with a paralyzed hand—how does Jesus respond to the Pharisees? How is his response different from the first controversy?
- Explain Jesus's argument. Why does he bring up sheep?
- Who, between Jesus and the Pharisees, is *actually* honoring the intent of the Sabbath? Why?

- Pastor Joey used the analogy of a pair of glasses to illustrate the Pharisees blindness to the true meaning of the sabbath. He said, “you’re not supposed to see your glasses, you’re supposed to see *through* them to what really matters. You’re not supposed to focus on your glasses, but on what your glasses bring into focus.” How are the Pharisees blind to the meaning of the Sabbath?
- Do we suffer from a similar blindness when it comes to our habits and practices of discipleship? How so?
- Pastor Joey asked, “Can we see through the Sabbath—and all of our discipleship practices—like a clean pair of glasses, to see what the Sabbath brings into focus?”
- What practices are you engaged in simply for the sake of doing the practices, no longer for the sake of encountering Jesus?
- What do you need to change?

