

SERIES: LUKE: THE SON OF MAN, THE SAVIOR
HAS COME, WEEK 32

TITLE: LORD OF THE SABBATH

TEXT: LUKE 6:1-11

INTRODUCTION: (1) SABBATH OBSERVANCE WAS
THE HEART OF THE JEWISH LEGALISTIC SYSTEM.

* COMMENTATOR HERSCHEL HOBBS WRITES,
**"WE MUST RECOGNIZE THAT AMONG THE JEWS
IN JESUS' DAY, THE 3 MOST SACRED THINGS**
WERE THE TEMPLE, THE CEREMONIAL LAW AND
THE INSTITUTION OF THE SABBATH.

** BUT OF THE 3, THE SABBATH WAS HELD IN
UNIQUE REGARD. OTHER RELIGIONS HAD THEIR
TEMPLES AND SACRIFICES, BUT ONLY THE JEWS
HAD THEIR SABBATH.

*** SO IN A PECULIAR WAY, IT WAS THE
DISTINGUISHING FEATURE OF THEIR RELIGION
AS OVER AGAINST ALL OTHERS." (END QUOTE)

**** BECAUSE OF THAT, MANY JEWS, ESPECIALLY THE PHARISEES, THE FUNDAMENTALIST SECT IN JUDAISM, WERE HYPER ABOUT THE SABBATH.

(2) AND LEST I BE MISUNDERSTOOD, THE SABBATH IN AND OF ITSELF IN ITS ORIGINAL INTENT WAS GOD-ORDAINED FOR HIS PEOPLE AND GOOD.

* THE ENGLISH AND GREEK WORDS FOR SABBATH TRANSLITERATE THE HEBREW SHABBAT WHICH HAS THE BASIC MEANING OF CEASING, REST, AND INACTIVITY, TO REST FROM LABOR AND BECAME A DAY OF REST.

** IN FACT, AT THE END OF CREATION IN GENESIS **2:3 IT SAYS: "AND GOD BLESSED THE SEVENTH DAY AND SANCTIFIED IT, BECAUSE IN IT HE RESTED FROM ALL HIS WORK WHICH GOD HAD **CREATED AND MADE.**"**

*** NOW IN HONOR OF THAT DAY, THE LORD DECLARED IT TO BE A SPECIAL TIME OF REST AND REMEMBRANCE FOR HIS PEOPLE AND INCORPORATED ITS OBSERVANCE IN THE REQUIREMENTS OF THE 10 COMMANDMENTS AS THE 4TH COMMANDMENT IN EXODUS 20:8-11, (QUOTE EX. 20:8&9).

**** SO THE SABBATH, BY COMMANDMENT, WAS TO BE SET ASIDE AS HOLY. AND ACCORDING TO OUR TIME RECKONING IT BEGAN AT SUNDOWN ON FRIDAY (AROUND 6:00 P.M.) AND ENDED AT SUNDOWN ON SATURDAY.

(3) AND THIS DAY WAS TO BE A TIME OF REST AND REFLECTION. THE BASIC IDEA WAS TO LAY ASIDE THE NORMAL DAILY ACTIVITIES AND FOCUS ON THE CREATOR, WHICH WAS GOOD.

* BUT THROUGH THE YEARS THE IDEA OF LAYING ASIDE DAILY LABORS FOR REFLECTION UPON THE CREATOR BECAME LOST IN A STRICT SYSTEM OF RULES AND REGULATIONS.

** THROUGH THE YEARS THE VARIOUS SCHOOLS OF RABBIS HAD ADDED REGULATION AFTER REGULATION, GOING FAR BEYOND THE TEACHING OF SCRIPTURE AND IN MANY INSTANCES ACTUALLY CONTRADICTING IT.

*** AND YES KEEPING THE SABBATH WAS STILL A BINDING CEREMONIAL OBLIGATION FOR ISRAEL **IN CHRIST'S DAY**, BUT MOST JEWS HAD NO CLUE OF THE ORIGINAL PURPOSE OF THE SABBATH OR OF HOW GOD INTENDED IT TO BE HONORED.

**** IN FACT, INSTEAD OF BEING A DAY OF REST IT HAD BECOME A DAY OF INCREDIBLE BURDEN.

(4) FOR EXAMPLE, ONE SECTION ALONE OF THE TALMUD, THE MAJOR COMPILATION OF JEWISH TRADITION, HAS 24 CHAPTERS LISTING SABBATH LAWS.

* THE PHARISEES HAD ESTABLISHED 39 CATEGORIES OF ACTIONS FORBIDDEN ON THE SABBATH WITH LIT. HUNDREDS OF HAIR-SPLITTING DEFINITIONS THAT WERE EXTRA-BIBLICAL.

** NOW THE RESULT OF THOSE MAN-MADE RESTRICTIONS MADE THE SABBATH INTO A DAY OF WORK. WHAT I MEAN IS THE SABBATH WAS MORE TIRESOME THAN THE 6 DAYS DEVOTED TO **ONE'S OCCUPATION. IT WAS HARDER TO "REST"** THAN TO EARN A LIVING.

*** THE SABBATH WAS ANYTHING BUT A TIME OF REST. IT HAD BECOME A TIME OF OPPRESSIVE FRUSTRATION AND ANXIETY.

(5) THE PEOPLE WERE SICK TO DEATH OF THIS SYSTEM THAT HAD BEEN IMPOSED ON THEM BY UNGODLY, WORLDLY LEGALISTS, AND THEY **WERE INDEED** "WEIGHED DOWN AND BURDENED".

* WELL, THE LORD OF THE SABBATH HAD COME TO GIVE REST, BUT THE PHARISEES TRUSTED IN THEIR WORKS AND THEIR SYSTEM.

**** SO WHEN CHRIST'S DISCIPLES PICKED THE HEADS OF SOME GRAIN AND ATE IT ON THE SABBATH, THE PHARISEES WENT BALLISTIC AS THEY WERE LOOKING FOR THINGS TO CONDEMN CHRIST FOR. BUT JESUS WILL POINT OUT IN V. 5 THAT HE IS LORD OF THE SABBATH.**

*** WHICH IS THE TITLE OF OUR MESSAGE **TODAY, "LORD OF THE SABBATH."**

**** AND THE SABBATH THEME CONTINUES IN VV. 6-11 AS JESUS HEALS A MAN WHOSE RIGHT HAND WAS WITHERED. AND THE PHARISEES WILL GO BALLISTIC OVER THAT AND START TO PLAN HOW THEY MIGHT KILL JESUS.

***** SO LUKE RECORDS TWO INCIDENTS IN WHICH JESUS BOLDLY CONFRONTS THE JEWISH LEADERS ABOUT THEIR FALSE VIEW OF THE SABBATH AND ESTABLISHES HIMSELF AS THE LORD OF THE SABBATH.

(6) AND THE FIRST INCIDENT TAKES PLACE IN A GRAINFIELD AND THE SECOND IN A SYNAGOGUE.

* AND IN LOOKING AT THESE TWO INCIDENTS, **WE'LL LOOK AT 5 POINTS TO HELP US NAVIGATE** THROUGH LUKE 6:1-11. NO. 1 THE INCIDENT, V. 1; NO. 2 THE INDICTMENT, V. 2; NO. 3 THE ILLUSTRATION, VV. 3-5; NO. 4 THE INSTRUCTION, VV. 6-10; AND NO. 5 THE INSURRECTION, V. 11.

** AND WITH THOSE 5 POINTS AS OUR MAP, **LOOK AT V. 1 PLEASE WHERE WE'LL SEE OUR** FIRST POINT TODAY, THE INCIDENT, V. 1.

I. THE INCIDENT, (READ V. 1)

A. NOW WE BEGIN THIS CHAPTER WITH JESUS AND HIS DISCIPLES WALKING THROUGH A GRAINFIELD ON THE SABBATH AND THE DISCIPLES EAT SOME OF THE GRAIN FOR THEY WERE HUNGRY.

* NOW UNDERSTAND THAT ROADS AS WE KNOW THEM TODAY WERE FEW, AND MUCH TRAVEL WAS DONE ON WIDE PATHS THAT WENT FROM TOWN TO TOWN AND PASSED THROUGH MANY PASTURES AND GRAINFIELDS.

** WELL, AS TRAVELERS WALKED ALONG THESE WIDE PATHS, **THEY PASSED WITHIN AN ARM'S** LENGTH OF THE CROPS ON EITHER SIDE.

*** AND INNS WERE RARE EVEN IN SMALL TOWNS AND VILLAGES AND WERE NON-EXISTENT BETWEEN THEM. SO IF A TRAVELER DID NOT TAKE ENOUGH FOOD WITH HIM OR FOUND HIS TRIP EXTENDED FOR SOME REASON, HE HAD TO LIVE OFF THE LAND.

**** SO A PROVISION IN THE MOSAIC LAW WAS GIVEN TO TAKE CARE OF THAT IN DEUTERONOMY 23:24&25.

2. AND THE WORD OF GOD IS SO PRACTICAL, THE LORD PROVIDED A PROVISION TO TAKE CARE OF PEOPLE IN NEED. HE IS CONCERNED FOR THOSE WHO ARE TRULY NEEDY.

* THUS DEUTERONOMY 23:24&25 SAYS: **"WHEN YOU ENTER YOUR NEIGHBOR'S VINEYARD, THEN YOU MAY EAT GRAPES UNTIL YOU ARE FULLY SATISFIED, BUT YOU SHALL NOT PUT ANY IN YOUR BASKET."**

V. 25 - **"WHEN YOU ENTER YOUR NEIGHBOR'S STANDING GRAIN, THEN YOU MAY PLUCK THE HEADS WITH YOUR HAND, BUT YOU SHALL NOT WIELD A SICKLE IN YOUR NEIGHBOR'S STANDING GRAIN."**

** NOW THE DISCIPLES WERE NOT USING A SICKLE TO HARVEST GRAIN, LIT. REAPING ON THE SABBATH WHICH WAS FORBIDDEN BY MOSAIC LAW IN EXODUS 34:21, BUT SIMPLY SATISFYING THEIR HUNGER ACCORDING TO THE PROVISION OF DEUTERONOMY 23.

*** YET RABBINIC TRADITION HAD RIDICULOUSLY INTERPRETED THE RUBBING OF GRAIN TOGETHER IN THE HANDS (WHICH THE DISCIPLES WERE DOING) AS A FORM OF THRESHING; AND THEY REGARDED BLOWING AWAY CHAFF AS A FORM OF WINNOWING, WHICH WAS WORK.

**** SO THE DISCIPLES BROKE THE JEWS MAN-MADE TRADITIONS AND BECAUSE OF THAT THE PHARISEES INDICT JESUS FOR IT WHICH IS OUR **2'D POINT TODAY, THE INDICTMENT, LOOK AT V. 2** PLEASE.

II. THE INDICTMENT, (READ V. 2)

A. NOW THE PHARISEES PRESENCE IN THE GRAINFIELDS INDICATES THEIR CONSTANT SCRUTINY AND JUDGMENT AS THEY DOGGED **JESUS' STEPS LOOKING FOR AN EXCUSE TO CONDEMN HIM.**

* AND THEY WERE VIOLATING THEIR OWN REGULATIONS, FOR ON THE SABBATH BY THEIR OWN TRADITION, TRAVEL WAS LIMITED. LET ME ILLUSTRATE BY GIVING YOU SOME OF THEIR MAN MADE RULES TO SEE HOW RIDICULOUS THINGS GOT. (READ THEM FROM ANOTHER PAGE). (GO TO QUOTES FROM MACARTHUR AND SPROUL)

** NOW THE BOTTOM LINE WAS THESE MAN-MADE REGULATIONS ADDED A HEAVY BURDEN TO LIFE THAT GOD NEVER INTENDED FOR HIS PEOPLE.

*** AND MANY OF THE PHARISEES WERE HYPOCRITES THEMSELVES, ALWAYS TRYING TO FIND FAULT, PICKING AT OTHERS, CLEANING UP THE OUTSIDE BUT ON THE INSIDE THEY WERE DIRTY AND DEAD.

**** AND THEIR PRIDE WAS HURT, FOR JESUS WAS GETTING MORE ATTENTION THAN THEM AND CONFRONTED THEIR HYPOCRISY SO THEY HATED JESUS AND WERE LOOKING FOR THINGS TO CONDEMN HIM.

***** AND THE CHARGE THAT JESUS WAS DOING WHAT IS NOT LAWFUL TO DO ON A SABBATH WAS ITSELF SINFUL, BECAUSE IT PUT HUMAN **TRADITION ON A PAR WITH GOD'S OWN WORD.**

1. BELOVED, RABBINIC TRADITION WAS NOT LEGITIMATE JEWISH LAW, BUT MANY CENTURIES OF OBSERVANCE HAD GIVEN IT THAT STATUS IN THE MINDS OF MOST JEWS, ESPECIALLY THE LEGALISTIC SCRIBES AND PHARISEES.

*** GOD'S WORD WAS HONORED IN NAME AND** WAS THE SUPPOSED BASIS FOR THE TRADITIONS. BUT SCRIPTURE WAS NOT STUDIED AND OBEYED DIRECTLY; IT WAS RATHER USED AS A MEANS TO JUSTIFY THE TRADITIONS, MANY OF WHICH ACTUALLY CONTRADICTED AND INVALIDATED THE WORD OF GOD.

** IN FACT, JESUS SAID IN MATT. 15:3 TO THE SCRIBES AND PHARISEES, WHY DO YOU YOURSELVES TRANSGRESS THE COMMANDMENT OF GOD FOR THE SAKE OF YOUR TRADITION, AND THEN IN MATT. 15:8 JESUS SAID ABOUT THEM, (QUOTE IT).

*** AND JESUS WOULD CALL THESE MEN HYPOCRITES IN THIS TEXT AND BLIND GUIDES OF THE BLIND.

**** YET THE PHARISEES INDICTED THE LORD AND HIS DISCIPLES FOR DISOBEYING THEIR DISTORTED, MAN-MADE TRADITIONS, THUS **PREVENTING GOD'S INTENTION FOR THE SABBATH**, WHICH WAS TO PROVIDE MAN WITH A SPECIAL DAY OF REST, NOT A PAINFUL DAY OF BURDENS.

2. SO JESUS RESPONDS TO THEM AND GIVES A BIBLICAL ILLUSTRATION IN VV. 3-5 TO SHOW THAT MERCY, COMPASSION AND HUMAN NEED WERE MORE IMPORTANT THAN RITUAL AND CEREMONY WHICH IS OUR THIRD POINT TODAY, THE ILLUSTRATION. LOOK AT V. 3 PLEASE.

III. THE ILLUSTRATION, (READ V. 3)

A. NOW CHRIST'S BIBLICAL ILLUSTRATION TO THE PHARISEES IN VV. 3-5 CONTAINS 2 **ARGUMENTS EXPLAINING WHY HIS DISCIPLES' ACTIONS WERE LAWFUL TO DO ON THE SABBATH.**

*** ARGUMENT NO. 1, DAVID'S EXAMPLE, FROM A KING OF ISRAEL AND NO. 2 PROOF FROM WHOM JESUS WAS, LORD OF THE SABBATH.**

*** AND FIRST OF ALL THE ARGUMENT FROM A KING. AND AS JESUS USES THIS ARGUMENT, HE SAYS, HAVE YE NOT READ WHAT DAVID DID, WHEN HE BECAME HUNGRY, HE AND THOSE WHO WERE WITH HIM?

****** AND THE PHRASE "HAVE YOU NOT READ"**
WAS A REBUKE IN ITSELF. FOR THE PHARISEES
CLAIMED TO BE THE SUPREME EXPERTS AND
CUSTODIANS OF THE O.T.

1. AND THEY MUST HAVE WINCED IN ANGER AS
JESUS SAID TO THEM, IN EFFECT, DON'T YOU
TEACHERS OF SCRIPTURE KNOW WHAT IT SAYS?

* AND JESUS WILL TELL THEM WHAT IT SAYS IN
V. 4. LOOK AT V. 4 PLEASE.

B. READ V. 4. NOW JESUS REMINDED THE
PHARISEES OF A FAMILIAR OLD TESTAMENT
STORY ABOUT DAVID AND HIS COMPANIONS AS
THEY FLED FOR THEIR LIVES SOUTH OF GIBEAH
TO ESCAPE THE JEALOUS AND VENGEFUL SAUL.

* AND WHAT HAD HAPPENED WAS WHEN THEY
CAME TO A PLACE CALLED NOB, WHERE THE
TABERNACLE WAS THEN LOCATED, THEY ASKED
FOR FOOD.

** AND AHIMELECH, THE PRIEST, GAVE THEM THE CONSECRATED BREAD OF THE PRESENCE, THE SHOWBREAD, WHICH WAS NOT LAWFUL FOR DAVID AND HIS COMPANIONS TO EAT, BUT FOR THE PRIESTS ALONE. AND THAT IS RECORDED IN I SAMUEL 21:1-6.

*** V. 1 - THEN DAVID CAME TO NOB TO AHIMELECH THE PRIEST; AND AHIMELECH CAME TREMBLING TO MEET DAVID AND SAID TO HIM, **"WHY ARE YOU ALONE AND NO ONE WITH YOU?"**

V. 2 - DAVID SAID TO AHIMELECH THE PRIEST, **"THE KING HAS COMMISSIONED ME WITH A MATTER AND HAS SAID TO ME, 'LET NO ONE KNOW ANYTHING ABOUT THE MATTER ON WHICH I AM SENDING YOU AND WITH WHICH I HAVE COMMISSIONED YOU; AND I HAVE DIRECTED THE YOUNG MEN TO A CERTAIN PLACE.'**

V. 3 - NOW THEREFORE, WHAT DO YOU HAVE ON HAND? GIVE ME FIVE LOAVES OF BREAD, OR **WHATEVER CAN BE FOUND."**

V. 4 - THE PRIEST ANSWERED DAVID AND SAID, **"THERE IS NO ORDINARY BREAD ON HAND, BUT THERE IS CONSECRATED BREAD; IF ONLY THE YOUNG MEN HAVE KEPT THEMSELVES FROM WOMEN."**

V. 5 - DAVID ANSWERED THE PRIEST AND SAID TO HIM, **"SURELY WOMEN HAVE BEEN KEPT FROM US AS PREVIOUSLY WHEN I SET OUT AND THE VESSELS OF THE YOUNG MEN WERE HOLY, THOUGH IT WAS AN ORDINARY JOURNEY; HOW MUCH MORE THEN TODAY WILL THEIR VESSELS BE HOLY?"**

V. 6 - SO THE PRIEST GAVE HIM CONSECRATED BREAD; FOR THERE WAS NO BREAD THERE BUT THE BREAD OF THE PRESENCE WHICH WAS REMOVED FROM BEFORE THE LORD, IN ORDER TO PUT HOT BREAD IN ITS PLACE WHEN IT WAS TAKEN AWAY.

*** NOW THE BREAD OF THE PRESENCE OR THE SHOWBREAD WAS BAKED WEEKLY, AND EACH SABBATH 12 FRESH LOAVES (REPRESENTING THE 12 TRIBES) REPLACED THE PREVIOUS ONES, WHICH COULD BE EATEN ONLY BY THE PRIESTS.

**** ON THAT PARTICULAR OCCASION, HOWEVER, AN EXCEPTION WAS MADE ON BEHALF OF DAVID AND HIS MEN, WHO WERE WEAK FROM HUNGER.

1. NOW NOTHING IS RECORDED THAT GOD WAS OFFENDED BY THAT ACT AND CERTAINLY THE JEWS WERE NOT OFFENDED BY THAT ACT, THEY REVERED DAVID.

* AND IT APPEARS THAT THE LORD WAS WILLING FOR A CEREMONIAL REGULATION TO BE VIOLATED WHEN DOING SO WAS NECESSARY TO MEET THE NEEDS OF HIS BELOVED PEOPLE.

**** GOD'S MORAL LAW WAS NOT VIOLATED, JUST**
A PART OF THE CEREMONY TO MEET THE
PHYSICAL NEED OF A PERSON, WHICH WAS THE
INTENT OF THE DISCIPLES AS THEY PICKED OFF
THE GRAIN TO MEET A PHYSICAL NEED.

*** BELOVED, THE PHARISEES DID NOT
CONDEMN DAVID, BUT A GREATER ONE THAN
DAVID WAS IN THEIR PRESENCE. AND ON TOP
OF THAT, THE DISCIPLES HAD NOT VIOLATED
ANY LAW OF GOD, JUST THE TRADITION OF THE
JEWS. AND THAT'S ARGUMENT NO. 1, NOW
ARGUMENT NO. 2 IS IN V. 5. LOOK AT V. 5
PLEASE.

C. READ V. 5. NOW TO SUBSTANTIATE HIS
AUTHORITY FOR SAYING WHAT HE JUST SAID,
JESUS ADDED, FOR THE SON OF MAN, AN
EXPRESSION USED MORE THAN 80 TIMES TO
TALK ABOUT JESUS, HIS FAVORITE ONE THAT HE
USED: THE SON OF MAN IS LORD OF THE
SABBATH.

* AND THAT STATEMENT MUST HAVE RENDERED THE PHARISEES SPEECHLESS.

** JESUS STOOD BEFORE THEM AND CLAIMED HE WAS GREATER THAN THE SABBATH FOR HE AS GOD CREATED THE SABBATH.

*** HE WAS GOD, THE SON OF MAN, THE DIVINE MESSIAH WHOM THE SABBATH SERVED.

**** IT IS THE SON OF MAN WHO MASTERS THE SABBATH AND NOT THE SABBATH THAT RULES OVER THE SON OF MAN.

1. BELOVED, CHRIST HAD THE PREROGATIVE TO RULE OVER NOT ONLY THEIR MAN-MADE SABBATH RULES, BUT ALSO THE SABBATH ITSELF WHICH WAS DESIGNED IN WORSHIPPING GOD. AND THIS AGAIN WAS AN INESCAPABLE CLAIM TO HIS DEITY AND WILL PROMPT THE OUTRAGE OF THE PHARISEES IN V. 11.

* AND THE OUTRAGE ESCALATES AS JESUS GOES TO THE SYNAGOGUE ON ANOTHER SABBATH AND ACTUALLY HEALS A MAN. LOOK AT V. 6 PLEASE AS WE START OUR 4TH POINT, THE INSTRUCTION.

IV. THE INSTRUCTION, (READ V. 6)

A. NOW JESUS MOVES ON AND ON ANOTHER SABBATH, MOST LIKELY THE NEXT SABBATH, HE ENTERS A SYNAGOGUE, WHICH WAS HIS COMMON PRACTICE, TO GO IN AND TEACH. HE WOULD GO INTO THE SYNAGOGUE TO INSTRUCT AND COMMUNICATE HIS GOSPEL.

* SO IN THE PHARISEES VERY AREA OF THEIR AUTHORITY, THE SYNAGOGUE, THEIR VERY LAIR AS IT WERE, JESUS WILL GIVE THEM A LIVING ILLUSTRATION OF THE TRUE MEANING OF SABBATH OBSERVANCE AND OF HIS AUTHORITY OVER BOTH MAN AND THE SABBATH, BY HEALING A MAN WHOSE RIGHT HAND WAS WITHERED.

** AND WHEN LUKE, A DOCTOR HIMSELF SAYS, **THIS MAN'S HAND WAS WITHERED HE IS SAYING** THAT HIS HAND WAS IN ATROPHY DUE TO PARALYSIS. HE COULD NOT USE HIS HAND AND FROM NOT BEING ABLE TO USE IT, IT WAS WITHERED UP.

*** WITH THAT SAID, LOOK AT V. 7 PLEASE.

B. READ V. 7. NOW ALTHOUGH WHAT HAPPENED IN THE SYNAGOGUE WAS PLANNED BY JESUS TO SHOW HIS AUTHORITY, WHEN THE PHARISEES AND SCRIBES SAW A MAN WITH A WITHERED HAND THERE, THEY THOUGHT THEY HAD THE PERFECT TRAP FOR JESUS. AND SOME WOULD SUGGEST THEY ACTUALLY BROUGHT THIS MAN TO TRAP JESUS.

* NOW OBVIOUSLY THE PHARISEES AND SCRIBES WERE NOT CONCERNED ABOUT THE MAN WITH THE WITHERED HAND, BUT ONLY FINDING AN OPPORTUNITY TO CONDEMN THEIR RIVAL, THE ONE THAT WAS TAKING ATTENTION AWAY FROM THEM, JESUS.

** THEY WANTED THE RANK AND FILE PEOPLE OF THE SYNAGOGUE TO SEE THAT JESUS WAS A SABBATH BREAKER.

*** **THEY DID NOT REGARD THE MAN'S NEED** WITH THE CRIPPLED HAND, WHICH BY THE WAY WAS HIS RIGHT HAND SUGGESTS HIS WORK HAND, THE HAND OF STRENGTH THAT WOULD BE HIS LEAD HAND TO DO WORK.

**** AND MOST LIKELY THIS MAN HAD A DIFFICULT TIME MAKING A LIVING WITH THIS PHYSICAL HANDICAP, BUT THAT WAS NOT THE **PHARISEE'S** AND SCRIBES CONCERN, WHICH SHOWS AGAIN THEY HAD NO COMPASSION, NO MERCY, THEY WERE ONLY CONCERNED WITH FURTHERING THEIR CAUSE, THEIR ENDS.

1. AND AS THE PHARISEES POINTED TO THE MAN WITH THE SHRIVELED HAND IN THE PARALLEL COMPANION TEXT IN MATTHEW 12:6, THEY TRIED TO TRICK JESUS BY ASKING HIM IF IT WAS LAWFUL, LEGAL TO HEAL ON THE SABBATH.

* AND THEIR MOTIVE IS REVEALED HERE AT THE END OF V. 7 IN OUR TEXT, "SO THAT THEY MIGHT FIND REASON TO **ACCUSE HIM**". **THEY** WANTED TO BRING AN ACCUSATION AGAINST JESUS.

** FOR YOU SEE, ACCORDING TO THEIR MAN MADE LAWS, A PERSON COULD BE HELPED ON THE SABBATH ONLY IF THEIR LIVES WERE IN **DANGER. AND OBVIOUSLY THIS MAN'S LIFE** WAS NOT IN DANGER, HE WAS HURTING NO DOUBT, BUT HIS HANDICAP WAS NOT LIFE-THREATENING.

*** BUT JESUS IN HIS OMNISCIENCE KNEW WHAT THEY WERE THINKING. LOOK AT V. 8 PLEASE.

C. READ V. 8. NOW ACCORDING TO VERSE 8, JESUS KNEW WHAT THEY WERE THINKING, HE KNEW WHAT THEY WERE TRYING TO DO SO HE TOLD THE MAN WITH THE WITHERED HAND TO GET UP AND COME FORWARD, AS JESUS WAS UP FRONT TEACHING BEFORE THIS QUESTION AROSE. SO THE MAN DID WHAT JESUS TOLD HIM TO DO WHICH LEADS JESUS TO ASK HIM A QUESTION IN FRONT OF EVERYONE.

* WHICH LEADS US TO V. 9. LOOK AT V. 9 PLEASE.

D. READ V. 9. NOW JESUS ASKS A MASTERFUL QUESTION HERE IN V. 9.

* FOR IT CREATES A REAL DILEMMA FOR **CHRIST'S** ENEMIES. FOR ON ONE HAND, ANSWERING THAT IT IS LAWFUL TO DO GOOD ON THE SABBATH WOULD OFFICIALLY AUTHORIZE TO HEAL THE MAN.

** AND THE PHARISEES AND SCRIBES THEN COULD NOT INDICT JESUS FOR BREAKING THE SABBATH.

*** ON THE OTHER HAND, ANSWERING THAT IT WAS NOT LAWFUL TO DO GOOD WOULD REVEAL THEIR WICKED, MERCILESS HEARTS.

**** AND IT WOULD TEAR DOWN THEIR RELIGIOUS FAÇADE OF SELF RIGHTEOUSNESS AND HYPOCRISY AND EXPOSE THEM AS THE HYPOCRITES THEY WERE.

1. AND BELOVED, THE SABBATH ABOVE ALL DAYS WAS A DAY TO EXPRESS GOODNESS, TO SHOW MERCY AND KINDNESS TO THE NEEDY.

* HOWEVER, THE RABBINIC TRADITIONS AND RESTRICTIONS HAD SO STRANGLED THE SABBATH AS TO RENDER SUCH KINDNESS AS FORBIDDEN.

** **AND HERE'S WHERE THE RUBBER MEETS THE ROAD,** THE REAL ISSUE HERE WAS NOT THE HEALING OF A MAN WITH A WITHERED HAND.

*** THE DEEPER QUESTION WAS WHO

WAS HONORING GOD? DOING GOD'S WILL?

**** WAS IT THE SON OF MAN WHO WANTED TO SHOW MERCY TO A NEEDY INDIVIDUAL OR THE SCRIBES AND PHARISEES WHO WANTED ONLY TO DESTROY AND KILL JESUS?

2. AND SADLY, MAN-MADE SABBATH RITUALS AND REGULATIONS BECAME A LITMUS TEST OF FAITHFULNESS OF GOD.

* YET THE PHARISEES AND SCRIBES ARE PLOTTING TO MURDER THE LORD OF THE SABBATH, GOD THE SON, WHICH OBVIOUSLY IS NOT PLEASING OR BEING FAITHFUL TO GOD.

** WELL AFTER JESUS ASKS THIS MASTERFUL QUESTION, HE PAUSES AND LOOKS AROUND. LOOK AT V. 10 PLEASE.

E. READ V. 10. NOW THERE APPEARS TO BE A PAUSE HERE AS THE LORD WAITED FOR A REPLY AFTER LOOKING AROUND AT THEM ALL.

* BUT THE SCRIBES AND PHARISEES SAY **NOTHING. THEY ARE SILENCED, THEY CAN'T** ANSWER THE QUESTION, FOR THEY LOSE EITHER WAY.

** NOW NOTICE AFTER THIS PAUSE, JESUS ADDRESSED THE MAN WITH THE WITHERED HAND AND COMMANDED HIM TO STRETCH FORTH HIS HAND, FOR THE VERB STRETCH OUT OR STRETCH FORTH IS IN THE IMPERATIVE MOOD IN THE GREEK, WHICH MEANS IT IS A COMMAND.

*** AND THE MAN, IN OBEDIENCE, DID WHAT JESUS TOLD HIM TO DO AND HIS HAND WAS HEALED, IT WAS RESTORED TO NORMAL.

**** AND NOTICE, JESUS DID NOT SPEAK ANY WORDS OF HEALING, HE DID NOT LAY HIS HANDS ON HIM, NOR DID HE LAY HIS HANDS ON HIS HEAD AND KNOCK HIM OVER, AND I REALIZE **I'M BEING SARCASTIC HERE.**

***** BUT FOR A PURPOSE. FOR JESUS HEALED DIFFERENT PEOPLE IN DIFFERENT WAYS, BUT THERE WAS NEVER ANY SHOWMANSHIP AND A REPEATED FORMULA, THERE WAS NO FANFARE, HE, THROUGH HIS MIGHTY POWER, TOLD THAT MAN TO HOLD OUT HIS HAND, HE DID, AND IT WAS HEALED COMPLETELY, YOU COULD SEE IT, IT WAS RESTORED TO NORMAL BEFORE THEIR EYES.

***** AND THIS HEALING WAS INDISPUTABLE, TOTAL, COMPLETE, **AND IT'S NOT RECORDED IN** ANY OF THE GOSPELS THAT JESUS SAID ANYTHING BUT PUT FORTH YOUR HAND.

1. BELOVED, JESUS WAS NOT A PERFORMER OR A RELIGIOUS HUCKSTER, BUT THE SON OF GOD WHO WAS LORD OF THE SABBATH.

* **WELL, THE PHARISEES DIDN'T SAY ANYTHING,** BUT LEFT THE SYNAGOGUE ENRAGED ACCORDING TO MATTHEW 12:14, WHICH LEADS US TO OUR FIFTH AND LAST POINT TODAY, THE INSURRECTION, THE REVOLT, THE REBELLION AGAINST JESUS AND THE PLAN TO PUT HIM TO DEATH. LOOK AT V. 11 PLEASE.

V. THE INSURRECTION, (READ V. 11)

A. NOW YOU WOULD THINK BY THE POWER OF **CHRIST'S ARGUMENT AND THE POWER OF THIS** MIRACLE THAT THE PHARISEES AND SCRIBES WOULD BE MOVED TO REPENT, THAT HEARING JESUS SPEAK FOR NEVER A MAN SPAKE LIKE THIS MAN, AND SEEING THIS HEALING, THAT SEEING WOULD BE BELIEVING.

* BUT NOT SO TO THE HARDENED SELF-RIGHTEOUS HEARTS OF THE PHARISEES, THE RELIGIOUS FUNDAMENTALIST IN JUDAISM. HERE WE SEE THE BLINDNESS OF FALLEN MAN, QUOTE JOHN 3:19.

** NOW DID THESE PHARISEES AND SCRIBES REPENT? NO. THEY REVOLTED. LUKE SAYS THEY WERE FILLED WITH RAGE, THERE WAS MADNESS AND HATRED IN THEIR HEARTS.

*** AND IN RESPONSE TO THEIR RAGE THEY COUNSELED TOGETHER, THEY CONSULTED TOGETHER HOW THEY MIGHT DESTROY JESUS, HOW THEY MIGHT KILL JESUS, ACCORDING TO MATTHEW 12:14.

**** THEIR TRUST WAS IN TRADITION AND IN **THEIR OWN WORKS, AND NEITHER GOD'S WORK NOR GOD'S SON WOULD CHANGE THEM.**

1. AND GET THIS, THE PHARISEES WOULD HAVE KILLED JESUS ON THE SPOT HAD NOT ROME RESTRICTED THEM FROM INFLICTING CAPITAL PUNISHMENT AND HAD THEY NOT BEEN AFRAID OF THE PEOPLE WHO FOLLOWED AND ADMIRERD JESUS.

* THEY WANTED TO KILL JESUS, THE REMAINING DECISION HAD TO DO WITH HOW.

**** AND FROM MARK'S GOSPEL IN MARK 3:6, WE LEARN THAT THE PHARISEES WERE SO DETERMINED TO DESTROY JESUS AT ANY COST THEY ENLISTED THE HELP OF THEIR USUAL ARCH ENEMIES, THE HERODIANS.**

***** AND THE HERODIANS WERE THE IRRELIGIOUS AND WORLDLY POLITICAL PARTY WHO SUPPORTED HEROD, THE HALF JEW KING WHO HAD BOUGHT HIS TITLE FROM ROME.**

****** THE HERODIANS WERE THE ANTITHESIS, THE EXACT OPPOSITES OF THE PHARISEES IN ALMOST EVERY WAY, EXCEPT FOR THEIR DESIRE TO GET RID OF JESUS.**

2. AND THE FACT THAT THE PHARISEES SOUGHT TO JOIN FORCES WITH THE HERODIANS REVEALS HOW DESPERATE THEY WERE TO DO AWAY WITH JESUS. THE RELIGIOUS LEGALISTS JOINED FORCES WITH THE SECULAR LIBERTARIANS TO DESTROY AN ENEMY THEY CONSIDERED TO BE EVEN MORE DANGEROUS THAN EACH OTHER.

* IN THE END THE PHARISEES AND SCRIBES WOULD HAVE NO MERCY.

IN CLOSING: (1) LET ME SAY THAT LEGALISM IS THE ENEMY OF GRACE. FOR EVEN THE MOSAIC LAW, DEMANDING AS IT WAS, WAS A **REFLECTION OF GOD'S GRACE, A MEANS OF** GUIDING PEOPLE TOWARD JESUS CHRIST, THE ONE TRUE AND ONLY HOPE OF COMING TO GOD.

* AS PAUL EXPLAINS IN GAL. 3:24, THE LAW WAS A TUTOR TO LEAD US TO CHRIST, THAT WE MIGHT BE JUSTIFIED BY FAITH.

**** AND IF GOD'S OWN LAW WAS ONLY A** SHADOW, HOW MUCH LESS SPIRITUAL SUBSTANCE DOES HUMAN TRADITION HAVE? IF EVEN DIVINE LAW CANNOT SAVE OF HOW MUCH LESS VALUE IS HUMAN TRADITION?

*** SO WE MUST SEE OURSELVES AS GUILTY OF VIOLATING **GOD'S LAW, UNWORTHY OF HEAVEN,** AND SEEING WE CAN DO NOTHING TO MERIT OUR SALVATION. IT IS A GIFT, NOT OF WORKS LEST WE WOULD BE PROUD, LIKE THE LOST PHARISEES AND SCRIBES WERE. QUOTE EPHESIANS 2:8&9, ROMANS 4:5, TITUS 3:5, ROMANS 3:20.

**** IN LIGHT OF THAT DO YOU SEE YOUR LOSTNESS TODAY? IF YOU DO REPENT AND CRY OUT TO CHRIST FOR SALVATION FOR MERCY, TURN FROM YOUR SIN TO HIM.

(2) BUT LAST OF ALL, JUST AS TRADITION AND GOOD WORKS IS A BARRIER TO SALVATION, IT IS ALSO A BARRIER TO FAITHFUL LIVING AFTER SALVATION.

* AND MOST PEOPLE HERE AT FAITH BIBLE CHURCH WOULD COMMUNICATE THAT THEY ARE NOT GOVERNED BY TRADITION, BUT THE WORD **OF GOD, AND I'M** SO THANKFUL FOR THAT.

**** BUT I'VE SEEN SOMETHING OVER THE YEARS**
THAT AFFECTS CHRISTIANS IN A GREAT WAY,
AND THAT IS A NARROWISM THAT GOES
BEYOND SCRIPTURE THAT PEOPLE ARE PROUD
ABOUT LIKE THE PHARISEES. WE ALL HAVE A
LITTLE PHARISEE IN US IN THE FLESH, THE
TENDENCY OF GOING TO SEED ON TANGENTS,
TO EXTREMES ON THINGS.

*** AND CERTAINLY THE PHARISEES WERE
NARROW, BUT WRONG. AND WE NEED TO
STAND FOR DOCTRINE AND TRUTH AND WHAT IS
CLEAR IN SCRIPTURE, BUT NOT DIVIDE OVER
PREFERENCES.

**** AND HAVING BEEN IN MINISTRY NOW
VOCATIONALLY FOR 40 **YEARS, I'VE SEEN THIS**
IN MYSELF AND OTHERS ALMOST TO RUIN
WHEN WE HAVE THIS FIGHT IN US THAT WANTS
TO STAND AND DIE FOR THINGS WE DON'T NEED
TO DIVIDE AND DIE FOR.

(3) AND WE GO OFF ON TANGENTS AND I'VE SEEN IT HAPPEN, THAT A PERSON GETS SO **NARROW THEY CAN'T WORSHIP WITH ANYONE** CORPORATELY AND EVEN GO TO CHURCH AND **THAT'S WRONG. THEY CAN'T AGREE WITH ANYONE.**

* AND I HAVE NO HIDDEN AGENDA TODAY, JUST CONCERN. STAND FOR THE WORD, DIVIDE OVER **DOCTRINE, BUT DON'T DIVIDE OVER THINGS** THAT ARE NOT CLEAR IN SCRIPTURE, LIKE PREFERENCES AND LIBERTY.

** THE WAY TO CHRIST IS NARROW, AND WE ARE NARROW COMPARED TO OTHERS WHO DO NOT SEE THE WORD OF GOD AS THE FINAL AUTHORITY, BUT LET US NOT BE LIKE THE PHARISEES WHO WERE NARROW IN A WRONG **WAY. LET'S PRAY FOR WISDOM, DISCERNMENT, AND UNDERSTANDING THAT WE DON'T DIVIDE OVER THINGS WE DON'T NEED TO DIVIDE OVER.** (LET US PRAY).