

THE BRUISED AND SMOLDERING

MATTHEW 12:1-21

I. JESUS FACES CHARGES OF SABBATH BREAKING (12:1-14)

A. FOR PERMITTING GRAIN THRESHING ON THE SABBATH.

1. THE SITUATION: THE DISCIPLES GLEAN THE GRAIN FIELD (12:1)
2. THE PHARISEES' REACTION IS ALWAYS NEGATIVE (12:2)
3. JESUS ANSWERS:
 - a. Human need rises above strict, legal procedure (12:3, 4)
 - b. Work in God's Service is permitted on the Sabbath (12:5, 6)
 - c. God's interpretation of His Law is more lenient than ours (12:7)
 - d. I am Lord of the Sabbath (12:8)

B. FOR HEALING A MAN'S WITHERED HAND ON THE SABBATH.

1. SITUATION: A TRAP LAID FOR JESUS (12:9, 10)
2. JESUS' ANSWERS AND CONCLUSION.
 - a. You work by helping dumb beasts. (12:11, 12a)
 - b. Jesus concludes it's always right to do good. (12:12b)
 - c. The miracle proves Jesus is right. (12:13)
3. THE NEGATIVE REACTION OF THE LEADERS (12:14)

II. JESUS, THE HEALING SERVANT OF JEHOVAH (12:15-21)

A. SITUATION: JESUS MAKES A STRATEGIC WITHDRAWAL (12:15, 16)

B. RESULT: JESUS FULFILLS ISAIAH 42:1-4 AS JEHOVAH'S HEALING SERVANT. (12:17)

1. HIS CALLING WAS FROM GOD (12:18)
2. HIS AUTHORITY AND TASK (12:18b)
3. HIS METHOD WAS TO DRAW ATTENTION TO THE FATHER (12:19)
4. HIS GENTLENESS (12:20a)
 - a. He doesn't finish off battered reeds.
 - b. Nor does he snuff out the faint and final light of smoldering wicks.
5. HIS RESULTS ALWAYS PRODUCE VICTORY (12:20b)
6. HIS UNIVERSALITY (12:21)