

The Gospel of Matthew - CH12

Responding to Jesus



1. Discuss a time you disapproved of someone because they did something differently to the way you would have done it.

How did you deal with it?

2. Read Matthew 12:1-2. What does it mean to you to keep the Sabbath holy?

3. Read Matthew 12: 3-13. Discuss the conflict between not working on the Sabbath and helping someone in need.

Explain the answer Jesus gave in v7. Can you think of a similar conflict we might have today?

4. Give some examples of fences that we put round the law. Is this good or bad?

Consider the following examples and decide whether these are God’s direct laws for us or if they are laws that man has made as a fence to help us keep God’s law. (Tick the box)

The Laws	God’s direct law	Man’s fence law
Don’t mow lawns on Sunday		✓
Show kindness to your neighbour		
Spend time regularly in prayer		
Make time to read the bible		
Turn off your phone in church		
Help the poor		
Wear respectable clothes to church		
Give 10% of your income back to God		
Don’t smoke or drink		
Be involved in a charity		
?		
?		

There are 2 blank lines at the bottom. Do you have any other “laws” you can think of that you would like to discuss?

5. Read Matthew 12:14. The Pharisees did not like it when Jesus told them that the way they had been applying the law for hundreds of years was not correct. Discuss their response and why you think they acted like that?

Do you think there are “laws” / traditions / habits that we have in our church that Jesus would challenge?

Do we put anything in front of the greatest commandments, which are to love God and love others?



6. Read Matthew 12:33-37. What was Jesus saying about himself in these verses?

What does it say about us when we say or do bad things? What do we need to ask God to fix?

7. Read Matthew 12:46-50. What was Jesus saying about his priorities?

Consider times when there is a conflict between our priorities to God / Family / church / friends. How do we achieve a balance?