

July 30th, 2023
Pinecrest Baptist Church
a.m.

Sermon Series: Striving with the Maker: The Ruin of Resistance
Sermon #2 Title: **It Is Written**
Sermon #2 Text: (Matthew 12:1-8)

It is no secret that sometimes man keeps his homemade rules to the point of absolute absurdity.

In 2008, when our National ABA meeting was held in Spokane, we elected our various committees and officers as we do every year. On Wednesday afternoon of that meeting, we elected bro. Albert Garner to serve on the Missionary Service Trust Committee, alongside everyone else who had been on that committee for a number of previous years. All went well, until it was pointed out by our Parliamentarian, Bro. David Robinson a small problem. Bro. Garner had died, the year before. – However due to the schedule and the nearness to our break, we felt Bro. Garner wouldn't mind serving one more year even though he was with Jesus.

Very often our own rules get in our way; and it can result in some silly things.

However, sometimes, our own rules get in the way of real consequential things; like we see as we walk through Matthew 12.

As we started with last week: One of the sternest warnings that the LORD God gives us in Scripture is found in Isaiah 45:9 – “Woe unto him that striveth with his Maker!” While no

conscientious Christian would ever strive with the Lord purposely with his eyes wide open; there are those who have no hesitation, about doing all they can, to cut the legs out from under the Word and Work of the LORD.

- There are those who would never fight Him knowledgably and on purpose.
- There are, no doubt, those who do fight Him, but won't admit it.
- Then there are those who will fight Him with both feet, two hands, bad words and dirty looks.

We started last week working our way through this particular chapter in Matthew, that records for us some exchanges between the LORD Jesus Himself; and those who wanted to do nothing more than argue, fight, resist and oppose all He said, all He did; and all others who would say and do what He did.

A quick reminder about the setting of our passage:

- 1.) Where We are – Capernaum
- 2.) When This Is – Most likely early in the second year of Christ's ministry.
- 3.) What is going on. – According to Luke this is “the second sabbath after the first” which is a way of indicating that the timing is right after passover, during the spring.

*Note- Now with that being said, the Pharisees have levied a charge against the Lord and His disciples for: plucking and eating corn from a farmers field on the sabbath day.

When we look at how the Pharisees viewed their laws protecting the laws of God: the disciples and Jesus had committed at least 4 offences worthy of being condemned.

We remember that according to the Talmud, the Jewish writings, and commentaries on scriptures, they concluded that:

‘In case a woman rolls wheat to remove the husks, it is considered as sifting; if she rubs the heads of wheat, it is regarded as threshing; if she cleans off the side-adherencies, it is sifting out fruit; if she bruises the ears, it is grinding; if she throws them up in her hand, it is winnowing.’”

So with that being in their mind, it appears that the Jesus and His disciples were guilty at least of: (1.) sifting; (2.) threshing; (3.) grinding; and possibly (4.) winnowing.

And it is here where the enemies of Jesus begin to prosecute the Lord and His followers.

- Some of the Pharisees we know were honest in their inquiries...
- But the majority of the Pharisees, and it appears that is the case here, were not dealing with honest questions, but were doing all they could to defeat the Lord Jesus.

Here is our Lord's response:- Learn it well!

I. The Dominion of the Scriptures – “Have ye not read...”

*Note – Let me give you two good pieces of free advice right here:

#1 – Never, no never, make any attempt to use the Word of God against the God of the Word. There is nothing more devilish, and nothing more foolish than trying to use the Bible against the God that gave it to us. – It will end in catastrophic failure.

#2 – Never, no never Forget, the ever-present dominion that the Scriptures have in every molecule of life.

- You can never use them against God; and you need never forget them in mind.

The Pharisees appealed to the Law of God; so to the Word of God we will go!

(May you always remember that there is more in the Word of God than the ceremonial law of God – which appeared to be the only thing the Pharisees were interested in.)

*Note – There are two things here that Jesus points too pertaining to the scriptures:

A. The Study of Them – “Have ye not read...” vs 3-4

*Note – Of course they had read...the Pharisees prided themselves in their knowledge of memory of the scriptures. – It would not be too much to read this statement as intended sarcasm...

- It is a subtle insult – a dig at their pride – a dart intended to offend their self-inflated balloon...

*Note – Note the word for “read” – anaginosko – it’s a word that means to “read” or “read aloud.” –

Something that was done, and is done, in the synagogues on an unwavering basis is to “read aloud” the scriptures! Both the Law and the Prophets...

*Note – The spirit of the statement is like saying – “Have you not been reading your scriptures? – Have you been skipping sabbath school?

- The intended message in such a statement is that You are Oblivious to the matter at hand.

*Note – It might be tantamount to saying “You couldn’t see through a barbed wired fence, looking straight at it.”

- Jesus points them to two prominent things in the Old Testament as they related to the matter at hand.

- 1.) The story of David at Nob
- 2.) The law of the Priests making sacrifices.

*Note- The story of David at Nob was a prominent moment in the downfall of King Saul that all self-respecting Jews would at the very least have a basic working knowledge about.

*Note – Then, of course, the practices of the priests offering sacrifices on the sabbath day was as common knowledge as the fact of sunrise and sunset.

*Note – Now before we get into the study of those, don’t miss the point.

- Life, in all of its aspects, is spoken to scripture either directly or indirectly. The Bible has Dominion over all of reality; therefore, there is nothing you will ever endure that cannot, should not, or could not, be given guidance to through the scriptures.

*Note- In short, when the Pharisees tried to use the Bible against Jesus and His disciples He said,- Well, The Bible has

something to say about what you are saying... so lets look at it.

Notice the Study of the Scriptures; but now comes the Scrutiny of the Scriptures:

B. The Scrutiny from Them

1.) A Sure Understanding – What exactly did David do?

a.) verse 4 – “**he entered into the house of God, and did eat the shewbread, which was not lawful for him to eat, neither for the which were with him, but only for the priests.**”

*Note – This is the first thing that Jesus referenced in answer to the Pharisees; you ought to learn it.

In 1st Samuel 21:1-6 – David was fleeing from Saul, and he went to the city of Nob, a city of Jewish priests, and he spoke to Ahimelech the high priest at the time; and asked him for some food.

Beginning in verse 3 – “Now therefore what is under thine hand? Give me five loaves of bread in mine hand, or what there is present. And the priest answered David, and said *There is no common bread under mine hand, but there is hallowed bread; if the young men have kept themselves at least from women. And David answered the priest, and said unto him, Of a truth women have been kept from us... So the priest gave him hallowed bread: for there was no bread there but the shewbread, that was taken from before the Lord, to put hot bread in the day when it was taken away.*”

What does that have to do with the Disciples plucking corn on the sabbath day?

First – Know exactly what David did: - He did not go and take the bread from the holy utensils.... He asked the priest for bread to eat.

Second – The bread the priest gave him, was bread that had already been taken from the table of shewbread, and was now the property of the priest to eat.

Third - What David did was in fact “unlawful.” – The Lord is not justifying David’s actions here; He is pointing out that David in fact had broken the ceremonial law of God!

*Note – Regardless of how you slice, how you study it, what laws you chase down, and scriptures you look up, what king David did was wrong. – Jesus is not using David’s actions to Justify His disciples; and I’ll show you that in a minute.

b.) Second reference – vs 5 – “**or have you not read in the law, how that on the sabbath days the priest in the temple profane the sabbath, and are blameless?**”

*Note – Now one does not have to be much of a scholar in Jewish law to notice a conundrum that does not mix at all with the Pharisees sabbath day rules.

- (1.) What do priests do in the temple? – They offer sacrifices.
- (2.) When do they do that?
Daily – even on the sabbath day.

- (3.) What do sacrifices require?
– labor, killing animals, building, keeping, and stoking fires, cleaning the remainders...

*Note – Now that being said, the Lord established BOTH the sabbath AND the sacrificial system, and never shall the Lord’s instructions contradict another, in right understanding they always harmonize.

*Note -Christ pointed out to them that both sets of instructions are in the word of God.

Clean, fair study.

- BUT now here’s the summation - The Personal Application
What do these illustrations have to do with Jesus and His disciples in the corn field?

NOTHING – They have everything to do with how the Pharisees were misusing the Word of God to condemn guiltless people!

2.) A Personal Application

#First – the story of David:

- one of the most common, and regular answers found among theologians is this:- That Jesus was teaching the Pharisees that when a man had justifiable needs; the ceremonial laws were not to get in the way.

Countless theologians will tell you this is the application.

The problem is, that there is a GREAT BIG problem with that line of thinking. If “necessities” allowed someone to dismiss the laws and word of God, then the law of God would not be a law, but advice.

- When Jesus was hungered in Matthew 4, Satan said “command these stones should be made bread...” “**But he answered and said, It is written, Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God.**” – Matthew 4:3-4

Furthermore, Jesus is the One who said, Matthew 5:19 – “**Whosoever therefore shall break one of these least commandments, and shall teach men so, he shall be called the least in the kingdom of heaven.**”

One more for good measure - the verse right before the previous one Matthew 5:18 – “**For verily I say unto you, Till heaven and earth pass, one jot or one tittle shall in no wise pass from the law, till all be fulfilled.**”

*Note – Here’s the point:- King David was the hero of the Pharisees, and rightly so. King David actually did break the law of God when he ate food that belonged to the priests – and they thought David was excusable!

- They believed that David had done no wrong. – Yet Jesus said to them here what David did was Unlawful.

- If they had believed that what David did was wrong too; they would have cried out to Jesus, “So you admit it, you are just as wrong as David...”

From our Lord – David actually broke the law, and the Pharisees thought he did no wrong. The Disciples broke THEIR traditions, not God’s law; and they came unglued.

- As one writer puts it – “*Now the real argument of Jesus is this: David, when hungry, ate the show-bread, which h it was*

confessedly unlawful for him to eat, yet you justify him: my disciples pluck grain and eat it on the Sabbath, an act which the law does not forbid, and yet you condemn them.”

Furthermore – They never condemned the priests, who violated their rules on the sabbath day. Yet they were going to hold Jesus and His people guilty?

Christ applied with Word of God to the Pharisees MISUSE of the Bible to further their own rule; at the expense of the people.

I. The Dominion of the Scriptures – the study of them, and the scrutiny of them... in many ways, men do not read the Bible, the Bible reads them!

Every cook needs to eat their own cooking before they give it to someone else.

Every proclaimer of scripture must eat first before he passes it on.

Every rejector of scripture would do himself life changing service if he were to honestly examine what he is rejecting.

II. The Declaration of the Savior – “I say unto you...”

*Note – Now after the Biblical response, there is the Instructional lesson...

Two claims of Jesus that ignite the fuse of the Pharisees anger. If Christ were trying to “come together, and get along” these are the last things that He would have said.

- There could be nothing MORE divisive among men; yet nothing MORE True with God.

A. The Lord is Greater Than the Temple – “in this place is one greater than the temple.”

1.) The Jews had a history of being so enamored with the Temple, they believed it to be a symbol of their divine protection; and the object of their divine favor.

a.) Jeremiah 7:4 – the prophet rebuked that generation because they believed such nonsense – “Trust ye not in lying words, saying, The temple of the LORD, The temple of the LORD, The temple of the LORD, are these.”

b.) Even the disciples of Jesus were so enamored with the Temple that they thought Jesus should be in awe of it. – Matthew 24.

*note – The point is simple – They were so enamored with the House of God, they did not know the God of the House!

- They knew the Word of God – but not the God of the Word
- They knew the Temple of God – but not the God of the Temple – Jesus had already said to them once – they had made it a den of thieves.

Here is the claim – I am greater than the Temple! - It is the Person, not the Place.

(Just like its about dying to be with Jesus, rather than dying and going to heaven...

- Since my papaw passed away a few years ago, I have learned something.... I have learned and am learning that it isn't my Granny and Papaw's house that I am attached to:- It's my Granny and Papaw! - When Papaw John Roy passed away, I've

never gone back to the places that he lived. When my Granny Faye passed away; I've never missed the places she lived.

The Pharisees did not care about their RELATIONSHIP with God, they cared about the “Reputation it brought them, and the perceived influence they thought they had.”

- Which is exactly how some people treat the Lord's church and Christianity.

B. The Lord is Greater Than the Sabbath Day – “The Son of man is Lord, even of the Sabbath day.”

1.) Mark 2:27 – “**And he said unto them, The sabbath was made for man, and not man for the sabbath.**”

These laws were given for man's benefit; and the Pharisees have used and misused them as a weapon of oppression, not a benefit of man.

2.) The sabbath day is not about the sabbath day, it is about JESUS.

a.) It was for man to cease His occupying labor, and rest in the goodness, grace, and glory of God.

*Note – It would be these two claims – that Christ is greater than the temple and that He is Lord of the Sabbath that became the point of fury for His enemies.

- If those things be true, then Jesus is GOD over all men!

- They WOULD NOT, WOULD NOT, WOULD NOT, admit such to be true....

- Because if Jesus were God, He would what they would do... Because SURELY God would agree with us!

Friend that is exactly why people reject, fight, rebel, defy, and cuss the God of the Bible today – Because He does not do what you would do. – He does not think like you think. He does not reason like you reason - His ways are Higher than your ways, and there is NO Man in all of history past or future, that will ever be in a place – to judge God.

Isaiah 55:8-9 – “For my thoughts *are* not your thoughts, Neither *are* your ways my ways, saith the LORD. For *as* the heavens are higher than the earth, So are my ways higher than your ways, And my thoughts than your thoughts.”

III. The Danger of their Spite – “**ye...condemned the guiltless.**”

Here is their danger.

- Ignorantly condemning those they should be with.
- Ignorantly rejecting the very message that saves their lives.
- Ignorantly rejecting the very people meant for their aid.
- Ignorantly repelling the very salvation, very grace, very light, very truth, very life, very health that Jesus and His Word brings.

Conclusion:

Woe unto Him that Striveth with His Maker! – He is rejecting the Only Goodness and Life and Blessing and Salvation and Forgiveness offered to him in all of existence. There is nothing more FOOLISH than using Your ways of thinking to reject Him. If He thought like you, He wouldn't be God!

