

The King's Road: The Revelation of the King

Re: GROUP

The King's Road: Lord of the Sabbath Matthew 12:1–21

Small Group Questions

I. Sabbath Day in the Grainfields (12:1–8)

Theme: Authority Over Legalism

1. Why do you think the Pharisees focused more on rule-breaking than on the disciples' need (hunger)? Where do we see that same tendency today?
2. Jesus uses Scripture (David and the priests) to respond—what does this teach us about interpreting God's Word rightly instead of rigidly?
3. What does it mean that Jesus said something greater than the temple is here? How should that reshape our view of religious practices?
4. Jesus quotes Hosea 6:6—"I desire mercy, not sacrifice." What would it look like for you to live that out this week?

II. Sabbath Day at the Synagogue (12:9–13)

Theme: Compassion Over Ritual

1. Why were the Pharisees willing to use a hurting man as a trap? What does that reveal about their hearts?
2. Jesus says, "It is lawful to do good on the Sabbath." What are some ways we can miss opportunities to do good because of comfort, routine, or fear?
3. In what ways can religious habits (even good ones) sometimes dull our compassion for people?
4. Who in your life right now needs compassion more than criticism—and how can you respond differently this week?

III. Sabbath Day Hypocrisies (12:14–21)

Theme: The Contrast Between Religion and the King

1. The Pharisees move from criticism to conspiracy. What does this progression teach us about unchecked pride and hardness of heart?
2. Why is it significant that the Pharisees partnered with the Herodians (people they normally opposed)? What does this reveal about their priorities?
3. Jesus is described (from Isaiah 42) as gentle—"a bruised reed he will not break." How have you personally experienced the gentleness of Christ?
4. How can we reflect Jesus' gentleness and compassion in a culture that often values being loud, right, and forceful?

Concluding Application Questions (King's Road Focus)

1. Where are you more like the Pharisees—focused on rules, preferences, or appearances instead of people? What needs to change?
2. Since Jesus is Lord of the Sabbath, what would it look like for you to truly rest in Him this week—not just physically, but spiritually?