

THE MATTHEW STUDY: WHAT IT MEANS TO FOLLOW JESUS
 SERIES: JESUS: SAVIOR & JUDGE
 PART 4 - "DEMAND SURROUNDED BY KINDNESS"
 Matthew 12:1-21

"¹At about that time Jesus was walking through some grainfields on the Sabbath. His disciples were hungry, so they began breaking off heads of wheat and eating the grain. ²Some Pharisees saw them do it and protested, 'Your disciples shouldn't be doing that! It's against the law to work by harvesting grain on the Sabbath.' ³But Jesus said to them, 'Haven't you ever read in the Scriptures what King David did when he and his companions were hungry? ⁴He went into the house of God, and they ate the special bread reserved for the priests alone. That was breaking the law, too. ⁵And haven't you ever read in the law of Moses that the priests on duty in the Temple may work on the Sabbath? ⁶I tell you, there is One here who is even greater than the Temple! ⁷But you would not have condemned those who aren't guilty if you knew the meaning of this Scripture: 'I want you to be merciful; I don't want your sacrifices.' ⁸For I, the Son of Man, am Master even of the Sabbath.' ⁹Then He went over to the synagogue, ¹⁰where He noticed a man with a deformed hand. The Pharisees asked Jesus, 'Is it legal to work by healing on the Sabbath day?' (They were, of course, hoping He would say yes, so they could bring charges against Him.) ¹¹And He answered, 'If you had one sheep, and it fell into a well on the Sabbath, wouldn't you get to work and pull it out? Of course you would. ¹²And how much more valuable is a person than a sheep! Yes, it is right to do good on the Sabbath.' ¹³Then He said to the man, 'Reach out your hand.' The man reached out his hand, and it became normal, just like the other one. ¹⁴Then the Pharisees called a meeting and discussed plans for killing Jesus. ¹⁵But Jesus knew what they were planning. He left that area, and many people followed Him. He healed all the sick among them, ¹⁶but He warned them not to say who He was. ¹⁷This fulfilled the prophecy of Isaiah concerning Him: ¹⁸'Look at My Servant, whom I have chosen. He is My Beloved, and I am very pleased with Him. I will put My Spirit upon Him, and He will proclaim justice to the nations. ¹⁹He will not fight or shout; He will not raise His voice in public. ²⁰He will not crush those who are weak, or quench the smallest hope, until He brings full justice with His final victory. ²¹And His name will be the hope of all the world.'"

How to Experience God's Grace, Love and Mercy:

- I. **Identify** Jesus as the God of kindness, **compassion** and **mercy**. Matthew 12:1-8

Once you do you will:

- A. **See** God for who **He** really is. Matthew 12:1-4
- B. **Succeed** in receiving God's **acceptance** as opposed to pursuing **perfectionism**. Matthew 12:5-6
- C. **Surrender** to God's **kindness** instead of living oppressed by legalism and unhealthy guilt. Matthew 12:7-8

- II. **Respond** to the **servant** heart of Jesus Christ. Matthew 12:9-21

- A. **Accept** Jesus' **healing** and **merciful** touch on your life. Matthew 12:9-14
- B. **Love** others with God's mercy, **acceptance** and **value** of who they are. Matthew 12:15-21