

Questions for Reflection and Discussion
Matthew 12:1-21

Getting Started

Describe the ideal day off.

Digging In

1. **Read Matthew 12:1-8.** What did the disciples do that drew criticism from the Pharisees? Why?
2. Jesus answered their accusatory question with two examples. The first one (in vv. 3-4) comes from 1 Samuel 21:1-6. Read that passage and summarize Jesus' point.
3. What is the second example Jesus gives? (5-6) What is his point?
4. In v. 7 Jesus quotes from one of the prophets. Read Hosea 6:4-6. What point does God make in Hosea 6:6?
5. How does Jesus apply this principle to the Pharisees? What is he trying to get them (and us) to understand?
6. **Read Matthew 12:9-14).** What caused the second Sabbath controversy?
7. The Pharisees viewed healing as a kind of work, and therefore, prohibited on the Sabbath. How did Jesus answer their implied accusation? (11-13)
8. What does v. 14 reveal about the Pharisees?
9. **Read Matthew 12:15-21.** What do these verses (from Isaiah 42:1-4) reveal about Jesus, the Messiah?
10. How do these verses reveal God's concern for the nations?



Getting Personal

- What do you think God means, "I desire mercy, not sacrifice"? (Hosea 6:6)
- The Pharisees clearly missed the point. In many ways they substituted religion for relationship. What are some ways in which we make the same mistake today?
- Is there a way in which – like the Pharisees – you're missing the point?