**Introduction**

There are two key questions the Scripture wants us to wrestle with:

- Who is Jesus Christ?
- What is my response to him?

I. The world cannot understand the person of Jesus Christ.

MATTHEW 12:1-2

“\textit{The man without the Spirit does not accept the things that come from the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him, and he cannot understand them, because they are spiritually discerned.}”

I Corinthians 2:14

In Matthew 16:15, Jesus asked, “\textit{Who do you say I am?}”

Peter answered, \textit{“You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.”}

But not everyone saw him that way.

The Pharisees were religious, but spiritually blind.

The Pharisees accused Jesus’ disciples of breaking the law, but whose law – God’s or theirs?

Under God’s law, the Sabbath was to be a day of joy and rest and worship.

- A reminder of the covenant.
- A reminder of creation.
- A reminder that there is more to life than our work.

The Pharisees had made the Sabbath a burden.

- There were 39 kinds of work forbidden on the Sabbath and reaping was one of them.
How did Jesus answer them?
He took them to the Scriptures.

II. Jesus is the authoritative interpreter of Scripture.
MATTHEW 12:3-14

David – Verses 3-4
• 1 Samuel 21 – David was not condemned for his actions and neither were the priests.
• One greater than David is here.

The Priests – Verses 5-6
• The priests work on the Sabbath.
• One greater than the Temple is here.

The Sabbath – Verses 7-8
• “I desire mercy, not sacrifice.” Hosea 6:6
• Jesus is Lord of the Sabbath.
• One greater than the Sabbath is here.

All of these claims by Jesus were shocking.
• Jesus is claiming to be the authoritative interpreter of Scripture.
• Jesus is claiming to be God and that is why the Pharisees plotted to kill him.

Who’s right – Jesus or the Pharisees?
• Jesus healed this man on the Sabbath to show that he is Lord of the Sabbath.
• Jesus challenged their understanding of Scripture and their priorities.

Does Christianity really make a difference?
True faith produces mercy.
III. Jesus is the hope of the nations.
MATTHEW 12:15-21

This is the first of four servant passages in Isaiah. Isaiah 42:1-4
Jesus is God’s servant.
In his name the nations will put their hope.

How do we overcome the evil in our world?
We follow Jesus’ example.
We overcome evil with good.

Conclusion

The power of the kingdom is revealed by humble acts of compassionate service.
The world will never understand who Jesus is or why he came. So pray and ask God to open their eyes.
The world doesn’t believe the Bible is God’s Holy Word. Use it anyway! It is God’s Word.

The world may treat you like it treated Jesus. Love them anyway and live your life so that others may see Jesus in you.

“Let your light shine before men, that they may see your good deeds and praise your Father in heaven.”
Matthew 5:16