

# WELCOME TO SOUTHLAND!

*Thanks for joining us!*

*August 8, 2021*

Matthew Pt. 9 The Lord of the Sabbath.

As things start to at least have the appearance of opening up after a long winter of COVID restrictions, there is a growing desire to not return to 'normal' like we've been pining for these long months. Instead with some light showing at the end of the tunnel we are concerned that we will indeed return to life as it was – busy, overfull, hectic, hurried, stressful, draining.. need I go on?

Jesus spoke to a group of people once who were being overloaded with so many rules about what they couldn't do that they were becoming weary, burdened so low and so used to it that it had become accepted – normal. To them He said:

*“Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy and my burden is light.”* Matthew 11:28-30

Jesus is calling us back to the way of living that God had intended for ultimate creation – us!

## **A. Sabbath Created:**

*“On the seventh day God finished the work that He had done, and He rested... God blessed the seventh day and declared it holy, because it was the day when He rested from His work of creation.”* Genesis 2:2-3

**Note** as we begin Matthew 12 there's a noticeable change in the climate as it pertains to the Jewish leaders, the Pharisees, perception of how big a threat Jesus was to their power and control. From this point forward they become far more aggressive in their efforts to discredit and eventually destroy Him which led to:

## **B. Sabbath Confrontation #1:**

*“At that time Jesus went through the grainfields on the Sabbath. His disciples were hungry and began to pick some heads of grain and eat them.”* Matthew 13:1

But God had long ago thought of this. In fact, in His great love He'd instituted a plan so that no one, particularly those without means of support would go hungry. *“If you enter your neighbor's grainfield, you may pick kernels with your hands, but you must not put a sickle to their standing grain.”* Deuteronomy 23:25

*“When the Pharisees saw this, they said to him, “Look! Your disciples are doing what is unlawful on the Sabbath.” He answered, “Haven't you read what David did when he and his companions were hungry? He entered the house of God, and he and his companions ate the consecrated bread—which was not lawful for them to do, but only for the priests. Or haven't you read in the Law that the priests on Sabbath duty in the temple desecrate the Sabbath and yet are innocent? I tell you that something greater than the temple is here. If you had known what these words mean, 'I desire mercy, not sacrifice,' you would not have condemned the innocent. For the Son of Man is Lord of the Sabbath.”* Matthew 12:3-8

But the Pharisees were not interested in learning truth – they had another agenda:

**C. Sabbath Confrontation #2** *“Going on from that place, He went into their synagogue, and a man with a shriveled hand was there. Looking for a reason to bring charges against Jesus, they asked him, ‘Is it lawful to*

*heal on the Sabbath. He said to them, 'If any of you has a sheep and it falls into a pit on the Sabbath, will you not take hold of it and lift it out?'"* Matthew 12:9-11

**Note** how they have by this point in following Jesus around just assumed that He has the power to heal!

**D. Sabbath Clarified:** *"How much more valuable is a person than a sheep! Therefore, it is lawful to do good on the Sabbath. Then He said to the man, 'Stretch out your hand.' So, he stretched it out and it was completely restored, just as sound as the other. But the Pharisees went out and plotted how they might kill Jesus."* Matthew 12:14

**Note:** There is a question mark at the end of Jesus' first question in vs. 11 but not after what He said in vs. 12. That's because it wasn't really a question at all – it was a "how much more" statement that Jesus uses so effectively in making His teaching point. The answer He's compelling them to arrive at is....soooooo much more!

**E. Sabbath Conduct:** *"Remember the Sabbath day by keeping it holy. Six days you shall labor and do all your work, but the seventh day is a Sabbath to the Lord your God. On it you shall not do any work,"* Genesis 20:8-10

*"Jesus said to them, 'The Sabbath was made for man, not man for the Sabbath.'" Mark 2:27*

*"Some think one day is more holy than another day, while others think every day is alike. You should each be fully convinced that whichever day you choose is acceptable. Those who worship the Lord on a special day do it to honor him."* Romans 14:5-6

GIGO / GIGO = Garbage In Garbage Out / Goodness In Goodness Out *"A good person brings good things out of the good stored up in them, and an evil person brings evil things out of the evil stored up in them."* Matthew 12:35

*"Make a tree good and its fruit will be good, or make a tree bad and its fruit will be bad, for a tree is recognized by its fruit."* Matthew 12:33

'Vacational' Sabbath Activities: 1. **Rest**

'Vacational' Sabbath Activities 2. **Reflection** *"And God said . . . and it was so . . . and God saw that it was good."*

'Vacational' Sabbath Activities 3. **Recreation**

'Vacational' Sabbath Activities 4. **Remember** *the Sabbath by keeping it holy."*

*"For in six days the Lord made the heavens and the earth, the sea, and all that is in them, but He rested on the seventh day. Therefore the Lord blessed the Sabbath day and made it holy."* Exodus 20:11