



Sermon Discussion Guide
Meeting Jesus: Jesus and the Pharisees
Matthew 12:1-14
Ronnie Garcia, February 16, 2020

Step 1: Reflect on the Text

Read the Scripture printed above. What stands out to you? What do you find interesting and/or important? What is challenging or causes you to have questions?

Step 2: Reflect on the Sermon

INTRODUCTION

1. Have you ever thought that your personal convictions are so tight that perhaps Jesus himself would be excluded from your personal “orthodoxy”? How did the Pharisees stray so far from God’s heart?
2. What was your one, big takeaway from the sermon? How would you summarize the main theme of the sermon in one phrase or sentence?

THE LAWSUIT (vv. 3-7)

1. The Pharisees alleged that Jesus and his disciples were breaking the laws of the Sabbath. Jesus provides three evidences against that assertion. Can you name his 3 responses? Which one was the most surprising to you?

THE TRIAL (vv. 9-12)

1. The Pharisees knowing Jesus’ compassionate heart, brought to him a man with a withered hand, purposefully setting him up at the synagogue. The Pharisees were counting on Jesus healing the man in order to convict him. What is wrong with this picture? Do you believe that God wants mercy and not sacrifice? Are there places in your life where you are a walking contradiction too?

Step 3: Final Reflections

2. The text ends in vv. 13-14 with the Pharisees essentially dishing out their sentence and verdict with their actions. What was the real reason that made the Pharisees so angry and wanted to kill Jesus? Have you ever felt angry with God, and found doubt or cynicism useful in order to distance yourself from him?
3. How has your understanding, appreciation, and love for Jesus and the gospel grown as a result of this study?
4. In what areas of faith and practice are you feeling convicted by the Holy Spirit to act as a result of this study?