All verses are copied from https://biblehub.com/ in King James

Matthew 12

The Lord of the Sabbath
(1 Samuel 21:1-9; Mark 2:23-28; Luke 6:1-5)

1At that time Jesus went on the sabbath day through the corn; and his disciples were an hungred, and began to pluck the ears of corn, and to eat.

What standard did God establish for those who love Him as to a Sabbath day?

> ***Exodus 20: 8Remember the sabbath day, to keep it holy. 9Six days shalt thou labour, and do all thy work: 10But the seventh day is the sabbath of the LORD thy God: in it thou shalt not do any work, thou, nor thy son, nor thy daughter, thy manservant, nor thy maidservant, nor thy cattle, nor thy stranger that is within thy gates: 11For in six days the LORD made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that in them is, and rested the seventh day: wherefore the LORD blessed the sabbath day, and hallowed it. (emphasis mine)***

When man gets power, he inevitably puts or tries to put his own stamp on anything under his control. As we have discovered all religions are man-made and in those man-made religions are man's human made rules, disguised as God made Commandments.

God created two types of relationships, one was through the Law the other was through His Son, based on Mercy, Grace and God's Love.

Are there any examples of any man that simply takes God at what He says and does not add to it for what man calls; clarification?

If you recall Moses, chosen by God, who demonstrated doing exactly what God told him to do until a moment in Moses life when he added something that would affect his earthly life.

> ***Numbers 20: 8Take the rod, and gather thou the assembly together, thou, and Aaron thy brother, and speak ye unto the rock before their eyes; and it shall give forth his water, and thou shalt bring forth to them water out of the rock: so thou shalt give the congregation and their beasts drink.***
>
> ***9And Moses took the rod from before the LORD, as he commanded him. 10And Moses and Aaron gathered the congregation together before the rock, and he said unto them, Hear now, ye rebels; must we fetch you water out of this rock? 11And Moses lifted up his hand, and with his rod he smote the rock twice: and the water came out abundantly, and the congregation drank, and their beasts also. 12And the LORD spake unto Moses and Aaron, Because ye believed me not, to sanctify me in the eyes of the children of Israel, therefore ye shall not bring this congregation into the land which I have given them. 13This is the water of Meribah; because the children of Israel strove with the LORD, and he was sanctified in them. (emphasis mine)***

It's all about HIM!

It is the nature of man that brings about sin. Taking what God has said and adding something to it that gives man some notion of equality with God or power that God never intended man to have. It was the very flaw in Heaven in Lucifer, Satan that caused his fall from Glory. It is a flaw that was generated at the Garden within Adam and Eve. Add something to what God said is a path to destruction.

The point here is that the Pharisees over time had added to what God had said, bringing about what we call “legalism”. Jesus, God and Creator; Jesus Himself, or one of His prophets made several pronouncements about the Sabbath among other commandments that God had given.

> ***Mark 2:27 And he said unto them, The sabbath was made for man, and not man for the sabbath:***

God in His infinite wisdom saw that His creation, “man and woman” would need a day of rest. It was a practical measure that God would institute simply due to the way He had made us. The body of mankind needs rest from labor. And on that day of rest, God said to keep it Holy as we consider His Glory and what life would be without Him.

> **2But when the Pharisees saw *it*, they said unto him, Behold, thy disciples do that which is not lawful to do upon the sabbath day.**

There are two issues with the Sabbath according to God. One is “rest”, the other is to “keep it Holy”.

Let’s look at “rest” first in Strong’s Concordance

“Pronunciation: *noo'-akh*
Phonetic Spelling: *(noo'-akh)*
KJV: *cease, be confederate, lay, let down, (be) quiet, remain, (cause to, be at, give, have, make to) rest, set down”*

God’s intent was that man should labor, work, exert energy for 6 days and then on the 7th day man was to; cease, rest from the labor of the week. That was to include the entire family, workers and livestock.

Most of you will remember in America when most things came to a stop as to business being open. I think it was called “blue laws”.

“Blue laws *(also known as* ***Sunday laws****) are state or local regulations that restrict or ban specific commercial and recreational activities on Sundays, historically to enforce religious observance of the Christian Sabbath. While most restrictions on labor and travel have been repealed, modern blue laws primarily target the* ***sale of alcohol*** *and* ***automobiles****.*

The ***U.S. Supreme Court*** *upheld the constitutionality of these laws in McGowan v. Maryland (1961), ruling that they serve a secular purpose by providing a uniform day of rest, despite their*

religious origins. Today, enforcement varies significantly by jurisdiction:

*In the context of Montana's blue laws, the state's Sunday restrictions are limited to the sale of **distilled spirits**, which were historically banned on Sundays.*

***HB 867**, signed by Governor Greg Gianforte in **May 2023**, repealed that ban, allowing state agency liquor stores to sell spirits on Sundays and Mondays.*

*Since then, Montana has been the **44th state** to permit seven-day spirits sales, leaving only six states—Alabama, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, Texas, and Utah—that still prohibit Sunday spirits sales."*

It is quite unrealistic to mandate a Biblical Command in a nation that is free, which allow its citizens to have certain rights or freedoms. Man will take advantage of that idea and use it to his own determent. One of the founding fathers said as much;

John Adams "Our Constitution was made only for a moral and religious people. It is wholly inadequate to the government of any other."

Patric Henry "This great nation was founded, not by religionists, but by Christians; not on religions, but on the gospel of Jesus Christ."

3But he said unto them, Have ye not read what David did, when he was an hungred, and they that were with him; 4How he entered into the house of God, and did eat the shewbread, which was not lawful for him to eat, neither for them which were with him, but only for the priests?

We studied this in some depth when we studied 1 Samuel. David was fleeing King Saul in such haste that he had no food for himself, and his men and David had no weapon for defense.

If you recall the Priest who favored David gave David and his men, the Show Bread that by Commandment of God was only for the Priests to eat. The Priest also gave David the sword David had taken from Goliath after killing him.

These Pharisees would have in-depth knowledge of those events and God's provisions.

5Or have ye not read in the law, how that on the sabbath days the priests in the temple profane the sabbath, and are blameless?

Remember God established the Law as to what was right and what was wrong. Even within the Law God created a conflict that showed that one thing was higher than another even within the Law. This is from Strong's Concordance; Burean Study Bible

"Temple priests act under direct divine commission. • Their continual ministry—lighting lamps, offering sacrifices, arranging

bread—keeps the people in fellowship with God (Hebrews 10:11). • By highlighting "in the temple," Jesus directs attention to the dwelling place of God's presence, which carries greater weight than the ceremonial restrictions surrounding it (1 Samuel 21:6).

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break the Sabbath

From a surface view, the priests work: lifting animals, wielding knives, tending fires. • Exodus 31:14 labels work on the Sabbath a capital offense, yet God simultaneously commands priestly labor. • John 7:22-23 records Jesus using the same logic with circumcision on the Sabbath: if one God-given ordinance overrides another, then the Sabbath must yield to a higher, worship-centered priority.

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and yet are innocent

The priests' innocence proves that Sabbath laws serve a larger purpose and can be superseded by divinely authored worship. • Hosea 6:6—"I desire mercy, not sacrifice"—frames obedience as valuing what God values, not rigid ritualism. • Matthew 12:6-7 continues the argument: ***"I tell you that something greater than the temple is here… For the Son of Man is Lord of the Sabbath".*** *If priests are blameless because temple service eclipses Sabbath rules, then Jesus, who is greater than the temple, has full authority to let His disciples pluck grain."*

In God's economy of the New Covenant, a drastic change takes place. We as Believers get to Worship God every day. Consider this though, as we keep each day Holy to Lord, we still should seek obedience in finding that ONE day which we rest. I think it best if we can find that day on which other Believers rest and join

in that rest. But, one day should be used to rest. Unfortunately, here in America, with all the activities Americans have available the day of rest has become the day of Recreation, not rest.

> **6But I say unto you, That in this place is *one* greater than the temple. 7But if ye had known what *this* meaneth, I will have mercy, and not sacrifice, ye would not have condemned the guiltless.**

Here again, we have studied this desire of the Lord that He seeks obedience over sacrifice. God gives us Mercy when we don't deserve it, even for our failures on keeping a Sabbath Holy and resting. To keep the Sabbath Holy and resting is not a path to Salvation, it reflects the commitment we have made to God after He has given us Salvation.

October 11, 2026

> **8For the Son of man is Lord even of the sabbath day.**

"It's all about Him!" It is all about Jesus, Believers are just the heirs of His Work on the Cross.

The Purpose of the Sabbath

Strip away the pomp and ceremony that many religions have added, and the Sabbath has two simple purposes: rest and holiness. But there are two distinct types of rest that Jesus gives us.

The most important rest is found in Jesus and in the work He has already completed. Nothing we do can earn salvation. Without Jesus as Lord and Savior, every human effort to be saved is without effect. The most important rest is the Spiritual Rest we receive from Jesus. When you ask Jesus into your heart, with that you receive the Holy Spirit and eternal Rest from trying to gain Salvation. It is yours from that point on. So, we can just REST IN JESUS!

Physical Rest

The second type of rest God has for us is Physical rest God created for humanity—a pause from labor that allows the body to recover.

This physical rest carries two related reminders in the Old Covenant.

- God commanded Israel to rest so they would remember His deliverance from bondage in Egypt, where they had labored continually as slaves.
- God linked their rest to His own ceasing from labor on the seventh day of creation.

Within this pattern was God's greater purpose: ultimately to restore His relationship with humanity through His Son's sacrifice on the Cross and His resurrection on the first day of the week.

Spiritual Rest

Spiritual rest is the more important of the two. It is the rest we find in the finished work of Jesus on the Cross. No, where in the New Covenant is man command to have a Sabbath Day. That was Old Testament and directed to explicitly Israel. If you chose to follow any part of the Law then you must follow all the Law or you are guilty of it all.

> ***Psalms 62:1 Truly my soul waiteth upon God: from him cometh my salvation.***
>
> ***Romans 10:12 For there is no difference between Jew and Greek: The same Lord is Lord of all, and gives richly to all who call on Him,***

The issue is not what day you celebrate a Sabbath; the issue is are you a Believer. If you make your personal decision as to which is the Sabbath and condemn other for not agreeing with your decision then you are the problem, not the Sabbath day chosen. God is seeking obedience. We should note that the Sabbath day God chose was Saturday under the Law. The note is that in the New Covenant there is only one command that is not in the New Covenant as it is repeated the 4th Commandment is left out. The 4th Commandment

> ***Colossians 2:6 Let no man therefore judge you in meat, or in drink, or in respect of an holyday, or of the new moon, or of the sabbath days:***

> ***Galatians 5: 13For, brethren, ye have been called unto liberty; only use not liberty for an occasion to the flesh, but by love serve one another. 14For all the law is fulfilled in one word, even in this; Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself. 15But if ye bite and devour one another, take heed that ye be not consumed one of another.***

The Sabbath is really about a different type of “rest” that a physical one that we all enjoy. Taking a day off from work is a healthy thing to do.

This rest that is spoken of in the Spiritual sense is our rest in what Jesus accomplished on the Cross. He did all the work; it is not calculated in a day’s work or a week’s work it is calculated as a finished work just as God “rested” from His Labor at the Creation. It is a Spiritual Rest that all Believers can enjoy if we just understand that all the Work of Salvation is done. There is nothing any of us can do to bring Salvation to ourselves or anyone else other than saying “yes”.

Jesus Heals on the Sabbath
(Mark 3:1-6; Luke 6:6-11)

As this chapter continues, we see Jesus go with these Pharisees along with his disciples into these Pharisees synagogue. His conversation was not enough; Jesus will now demonstrate His Authority over the Sabbath.

> **9And when he was departed thence, he went into their synagogue: 10And, behold, there was a man which had *his* hand withered. And they asked him, saying, Is it lawful to heal on the sabbath days? that they might accuse him.**

Obviously, these Pharisees that accused Jesus disciples of violating the Law by eating wheat on the Sabbath did not receive Jesus's rebuke while in the fields. Their goal is not to learn but to accuse.

> **11And he said unto them, What man shall there be among you, that shall have one sheep, and if it fall into a pit on the sabbath day, will he not lay hold on it, and lift *it* out? 12How much then is a man better than a sheep? Wherefore it is lawful to do well on the sabbath days. 13Then saith he to the man, Stretch forth thine hand. And he stretched *it* forth; and it was restored whole, like as the other.**

Remember, one of the points here is that Israel/Judah were still under the Law. Jesus' arrival did not immediately introduce the New Covenant of Grace and Mercy. Jesus had to fulfill the Law and the Prophets prophecies first.

But wait, if Jesus is violating the Law by the things He is doing on the Sabbath, then He isn't fulfilling the Law He is violating it.

Once again, remember man's desire to put his own mark on anything that is under his control. The Jewish leaders made these

rules, not God. God established some basic tenants of what it meant to work vs rest. What it meant to keep something Holy to God's Glory. Jesus was not violating the Law of God and the Prophets; He was boiling them back to what God had said without all the addons that man had attached to the Law's of God. God put man over ceremony, not ceremony over man.

> ***Colossians 2:16 Let no man therefore judge you in meat, or in drink, or in respect of an holyday, or of the new moon, or of the sabbath days:***

Only God will Judge us, and it will be based on our heart as to what we did and spoke. And that judgement will be at the Bema Seat Judgement of Christ, for Believers.

> **14Then the Pharisees went out, and held a council against him, how they might destroy him.**

You wonder if Satan did the same in Heaven when chastised by God for his rebellion. Did Satan get his followers to have a meeting in Heaven to discuss how they might destroy God? Whether Satan did that or not these Pharisees are walking in the Spirit of Anti-Christ.

> **God's Chosen Servant**
> ***(Isaiah 42:1-9)***
>
> **15But when Jesus knew *it*, he withdrew himself from thence: and great multitudes followed him, and he healed them all;**

Jesus knew of their conversation and how they might accuse Him. All that had been done was done in the Synagogue so not a huge multitude had seen or heard what had happened. So, Jesus moves outside so a larger group can see and hear. Jesus accomplished two things by doing that. First more people would hear the Good News and see the Miracles that Jesus would do. Secondly, it was not Jesus's time to be persecuted so by going to a large crowd there was no way they would let the Pharisees take Him. The people simply would not abide it and Jesus knew that.

> **16And charged them that they should not make him known: 17That it might be fulfilled which was spoken by Esaias the prophet, saying,**

There is man's timeline and then there is a Godly timeline. We all make up our own schedules, when to take a trip, when to go to the store, we busy ourselves with our lives as we live each day.

God had a timeline that was cast before the foundation of the world. God's omnipresence, meaning He is in all places at all times was at this very moment in time before He created the earth. God knew exactly when and what He would do as this time came up.

> **18Behold my servant, whom I have chosen; my beloved, in whom my soul is well pleased: I will put my spirit upon him, and he shall shew judgment to the Gentiles.**

This is from Isaiah

> ***Isaiah 42:1 Behold my servant, whom I uphold; mine elect, in whom my soul delighteth; I have put my spirit upon him: he shall bring forth judgment to the Gentiles.***

This “judgement” word in the Greek also means “justice”. God declares that “Justice” will come to the Gentiles. The Greek word is Krino or Kreesis and means a verdict is handed down. So, it is likely talking about the evil that the Gentiles had committed against God’s People.

> **19He shall not strive, nor cry; neither shall any man hear his voice in the streets.**
>
> **20A bruised reed shall he not break, and smoking flax shall he not quench, till he send forth judgment unto victory.**
>
> **21And in his name shall the Gentiles trust.**

Wow, before God created the world, He established a way for not only His chosen people of Israel, but for we the Gentiles, non-jews. There is nothing beyond God’s Reach and there is no one beyond His Mercy and Grace unless they chose to be.

The Jewish nation with all of its manmade laws had fallen far short of God’s desire for them. After many prophets begged them to repent and to turn back to their Creator, they still put their own writings and ceremonies above the Creator God. When the

opportunity was given to the gentiles, they jumped at the Truth of Jesus Christ and many still do today. But there are many gentiles that have chosen the path of rejection. Rejection of the Living God and to what end?

A House Divided
(Mark 3:20-27; Luke 11:14-23)

22Then was brought unto him one possessed with a devil, blind, and dumb: and he healed him, insomuch that the blind and dumb both spake and saw. 23And all the people were amazed, and said, Is not this the son of David?

> ***Luke 7:22 Then Jesus answering said unto them, Go your way, and tell John what things ye have seen and heard; how that the blind see, the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, to the poor the gospel is preached.***

For the life of me I cannot see the difference between these people described here and today's people. The evidence is so clear, the path's that we were told Jesus would walk written over 2000 years ago we have seen in these writings and in our own lives. What more evidence do you need? God has declared;

> ***Romans 14:11 For it is written, As I live, saith the Lord, every knee shall bow to me, and every tongue shall confess to God.***

Here are the two choices;

Choice 1; bend your knee now and repent and confessing Jesus is Lord of your life before death finds you.

Choice 2; bend your knee and confess that Jesus is the Son of the Living God at the Great White Throne Judgement just before you enter eternity in Hell.

> **24But when the Pharisees heard *it*, they said, This *fellow* doth not cast out devils, but by Beelzebub the prince of the devils.**

Oh, how the might will fall. This is true Blasphemy, declaring Jesus by the Power of the Holy Spirit is in league with Satan.

> ***Luke 3:22 And the Holy Ghost descended in a bodily shape like a dove upon him, and a voice came from heaven, which said, Thou art my beloved Son; in thee I am well pleased.***
>
> ***Matthew 12: 31Wherefore I say unto you, All manner of sin and blasphemy shall be forgiven unto men: but the blasphemy against the Holy Ghost shall not be forgiven unto men.***

> **25And Jesus knew their thoughts, and said unto them, Every kingdom divided against itself is brought to desolation; and every city or house divided against itself shall not stand: 26And if Satan cast out Satan, he is divided against himself; how shall then his kingdom stand? 27And if I by Beelzebub cast out devils, by whom do your children cast *them* out? therefore they shall be your judges**

Keep in mind that Jesus is talking about both the physical kingdoms and Spiritual Kingdoms.

We will see America continue to decay as we are currently seeing decaying to the point of either anarchy or civil war. Our America kingdom has been dividing more and more over the past 100 years and accelerating. We will see in fact that a house divided will not stand and it will be our homeland.

> 28 **But if I cast out devils by the Spirit of God, then the kingdom of God is come unto you.**

Jesus is of course declaring to these Pharisees that they are witnessing the Kingdom of God coming to earth. The Kingdom of God up until this point had been isolated in a way in Heaven. Separated from the sinful nature of mankind.

The Spirit of God here; is the Holy Spirit. The same Holy Spirit that dwells in all Believers.

> 29 **Or else how can one enter into a strong man's house, and spoil his goods, except he first bind the strong man? and then he will spoil his house.**

There are two ways to look at this. The first would be that Satan is the strong man, and his house is the earth. For his house to be spoiled from what Satan’s intention is first Satan would have to be

bound and then his plans for mankind would be overcome by the power of God.

The second way to look at this is; That Satan would have to bind the Lord God before He could spoil His house, meaning heaven and all creation.

> **30He that is not with me is against me; and he that gathereth not with me scattereth abroad.**

Jesus draws a line in the sand so to speak. If you refuse to cross the line to where Jesus is standing, it doesn't matter what you say or do, you are against Jesus. If you as a Believer, if we as Believers do not get involved with "gathering" is scattering evil all around the world.

> ***Matthew 9:37 37Then saith he unto his disciples, The harvest truly is plenteous, but the labourers are few; 38Pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest, that he will send forth labourers into his harvest.***

> **The Unpardonable Sin**
> ***(Mark 3:28-30)***

> **31Wherefore I say unto you, All manner of sin and blasphemy shall be forgiven unto men: but the blasphemy *against* the *Holy* Ghost shall not be forgiven unto men.**

The offer of forgiveness is extended to all sin. Consider that for a moment, it includes homicides, genocides, infanticides and

abortions and every other kind of sin known to man. There is no sin beyond the reach of Jesus work on the cross, except God has set one aside that is beyond that reach and that is “blasphemy of the Holy Spirit”.

Jesus is the humble Son of Man, the Christ. He put himself in this position of being submissive to God the Father. In this position, Jesus was made available to scorn from men who refused to accept Him as the Messiah. God did not allow that same condition for the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit delivered worldwide the Power of the Blood of Jesus. Peter denied Christ, Paul persecuted those who followed Jesus, but they both repented and were forgiven. If however they had denied the Deity of Christ shown them by the Holy Spirit, they would have been doomed. Attacking Jesus was allowed by God, attacking the Holy Ghost was forbidden.

So, consider this event that just happened. Jesus in front of the Pharisees and a large crowd healed a man that was blind, deaf and had a demon. He did this on the Sabbath.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=d71PB7sF2L0

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https://www.facebook.com/reel/1586689276227679

> **32And whosoever speaketh a word against the Son of man, it shall be forgiven him: but whosoever speaketh against the Holy Ghost, it shall not be forgiven him, neither in this world, neither in the *world* to come.**
>
> > ***Hebrews 10:29 Of how much sorer punishment, suppose ye, shall he be thought worthy, who hath trodden under foot the Son of God, and hath counted the blood of the covenant, wherewith he was sanctified, an unholy thing, and hath done despite unto the Spirit of grace?***
>
> **A Tree Recognized by its Fruit**
> ***(Matthew 7:15-23; Luke 6:43-45)***

The following analogy is of course speaking about we humans. We can either be good, or we can be bad in God's Sight. It means nothing as to how other human beings see us, it only matters as to how God sees us. It is the fruit that comes from each person that reveals which category one finds himself/herself might be in.

What appears to be fruit is not to be used to determine Salvation, it is an off shoot of those who are Saved that their fruit would be good. Salvation comes first then the Fruit of the Spirit appears in a Believes lives. Caution should be used when understanding a person's Salvation based on observations of good deeds, there

are many people that do good, but have no relationship with Jesus.

> **33Either make the tree good, and his fruit good; or else make the tree corrupt, and his fruit corrupt: for the tree is known by *his* fruit.**

Are we as humans able to change the fruit we produce? Sounds like a simple question and many will say yes. I think it is beyond our ability to make our fruit good from living lives with bad fruit without some intervening action by God.

I say that because the source of good fruit is not naturally in us it comes from the Holy Spirit that indwells us. That only happens when we ask Jesus into our hearts and repent of our sins. Good fruit is not a steppingstone to Salvation it is an outcome of Salvation. Good fruit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness and faith.

> ***Galatians 5:22 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith,***

There were in Jesus's time those who held themselves as righteous by their position within the Judaism of Israel. It is an example of many today that put their trust and faith in their religion and whatever position they hold in that religion.

The only way to the Father is not through religion, any religion, it is only through the Son, Jesus.

That is not to say that all religions are bad or incomplete if they Truly point their followers to Jesus as the Messiah, with no other conditions. If they hold the Word of God, not interpretations that very from sound doctrine, then that religion is rightly dividing God's Word. In other words it is teaching Truth, not a religious philosophy.

Jesus specifically addresses this type of religious person by calling them "vipers".

Viper from Strong's Concordance:

"Phonetic Spelling: *(ekh'-id-nah)*
KJV: *viper*
NASB: *vipers, viper*
Word Origin: *[of uncertain origin]*

1. a viper or other poisonous snake
2. (figuratively) a treacherous person
{literally or figuratively}"

To consider what Jesus said considering what we see within so many formerly legitimate religions that held to the Word of God but have since fallen to evil. They claim as pastors and teachers to speak for God today but by their words defy God and His Word.

God never intended to create “religion”, He intended for there to be a personal relationship with Him. Man took the idea of God, in many forms and created religions. Some pointed directly toward God, Jesus and the Holy Spirit. Others conjured up various deities and began to worship them.

This is a quote from Greg Laurie as close as I can recall it; “religion is man’s attempt to reach up to God. Christianity is God reaching down to man.”

The difference is; in religion man has devised all types of works to be acceptable to God and thus find Salvation. Works based Salvation, that includes attempting to hold to the law as part or in whole. The very Law that Jesus came to fulfill and free us from.

Christianity in its truest form is God reaching down to man, by sending His Son to die for mankind and those that Believe in Jesus as their Savior are indeed Saved.

What many pastors do today is to appease to the sin nature of mankind, not point to Truth of God’s Word. Failing to call sin what God already determined as sin. They are leading millions to destruction. The same way these Jewish leaders led so many people away from God even resulting the splitting of the Nation of Israel into Judah and Benjamin as one part and ten tribes of

Northern Israel as the other. Turning their backs on God and being driven out of the Promised Land for nearly 2000 years.

> **34O generation of vipers, how can ye, being evil, speak good things? for out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaketh.**

If the fruits of the Spirit are:

> ***Galatians 5:22 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith,***

Then how do we speak ill of our brother or sister and engage in gossip or backbiting. Jesus says that out of the abundance of our hearts, the mouth speaketh.

> **35A good man out of the good treasure of the heart bringeth forth good things: and an evil man out of the evil treasure bringeth forth evil things. 36But I say unto you, That every idle word that men shall speak, they shall give account thereof in the day of judgment. 37For by thy words thou shalt be justified, and by thy words thou shalt be condemned.**

This from Beran Study bible notes:

“Jesus has just warned that “everyone will give an account on the day of judgment for every careless word they have spoken” (v. 36). He now sharpens the lesson: our speech is not a throw-away part of life; it is evidence submitted in God’s courtroom.

• *Proverbs 18:21 reminds that “Death and life are in the power of the tongue.”*

• *James 3:5-6 pictures the tongue as a small spark setting forests ablaze, showing how a few words reveal the state of a person's heart.*

• *Luke 6:45 connects mouth and heart: "Out of the overflow of the heart, the mouth speaks."*

When the Lord listens to our words, He is listening to our hearts."

The Sign of Jonah
(Luke 11:29-32)

38Then certain of the scribes and of the Pharisees answered, saying, Master, we would see a sign from thee.

Jesus knew the hearts of those asking the question. It is a human nature even to the extent that one of our states has their theme on their license plates, the "Show me" state.

As we enter this era of AI, seeing something will move many people to evil. "Show me", used to be a means of verifying what is said, but now with AI you won't be able to believe your lying eyes.

With Jesus it really came down to this;

John 20: 29Jesus saith unto him, Thomas, because thou hast seen me, thou hast believed: blessed are they that have not seen, and yet have believed.

39But he answered and said unto them, An evil and adulterous generation seeketh after a sign; and there

shall no sign be given to it, but the sign of the prophet Jonas: 40For as Jonas was three days and three nights in the whale's belly; so shall the Son of man be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth.

These Pharisees wanted to see a sign from Jesus that would prove that He was the Messiah. Jesus tells them that the sign will be like Jonas being three days in a whale. Jesus would indeed spend 3 days and nights in the earth before His resurrection and that would be the sign.

Jesus declares before a large crowd and His disciples what was to come, but it will be in God's Time and not at the hands of the Pharisees or the people.

You can imagine how they must have scratched their heads as to what Jesus meant by this statement of a sign being like Jonas. Hindsight and explanation by the Holy Spirit has revealed what Jesus meant.

Jesus also speaks directly to repentance and what that will bring about in people's lives. He used Nineveh as a perfect example. Nineveh was also an example of God's long suffering or patience with us. We really do need to pray for our enemies that they would see the light of Christ and turn to Him before it is too late.

41The men of Nineveh shall rise in judgment with this generation, and shall condemn it: because they repented at the preaching of Jonas; and, behold, a greater than Jonas *is* here.

Jonas was regarded as a great profit of God, yet Jesus declares here at that moment there is someone greater than Jonas in their presence.

42The queen of the south shall rise up in the judgment with this generation, and shall condemn it: for she came from the uttermost parts of the earth to hear the wisdom of Solomon; and, behold, a greater than Solomon *is* here.

The reference here is to the Queen of Sheba who came to see all of what God had blessed Israel with and hear the wisdom of King Solomon.

Jesus's point is that many evil people will testify against the evil that the religious leaders of that day and this day have done.

Again, Solomon was revered as a great leader for Israel and yet Jesus declares someone is present that is greater than him.

Return of an Unclean Spirit
(Luke 11:24-26)

43When the unclean spirit is gone out of a man, he walketh through dry places, seeking rest, and findeth none. 44Then he saith, I will return into my house from

whence I came out; and when he is come, he findeth *it* empty, swept, and garnished. 45Then goeth he, and taketh with himself seven other spirits more wicked than himself, and they enter in and dwell there: and the last *state* of that man is worse than the first. Even so shall it be also unto this wicked generation.

Demons are never satisfied being able to lurch about unattached according to Jesus. They seem to prefer to be imbedded within a human being or other critters in order to carry out their nefarious deeds. And if expelled from a human being that does not fill that void with Christ, the demons will come back and look at their former home and if it has not been filled with the Holy Spirit, take up residency again bringing more demons and cast even more evil within that person.

Jesus' Mother and Brothers
(Mark 3:31-35; Luke 8:19-21)

46While he yet talked to the people, behold, *his* mother and his brethren stood without, desiring to speak with him. 47Then one said unto him, Behold, thy mother and thy brethren stand without, desiring to speak with thee. 48But he answered and said unto him that told him, Who is my mother? and who are my brethren? 49And he stretched forth his hand toward his disciples, and said, Behold my mother and my brethren! 50For whosoever shall do the will of my Father which is in heaven, the same is my brother, and sister, and mother.

Jesus's point is the adoption that was about to take place. Through Jesus's sacrifice, those who Believe on Him; have Faith in Christ are going to be adopted as His brothers and sisters and mother.

> ***Ephesians 1:5 Having predestinated us unto the adoption of children by Jesus Christ to himself, according to the good pleasure of his will,***

> ***Romans 8:15***
> ***For you did not receive a spirit of slavery that returns you to fear, but you received the Spirit of adoption to sonship, by whom we cry, "Abba! Father!"***

> ***Galatians 4:5***
> ***to redeem those under the law, that we might receive our adoption as sons, through Jesus Christ***

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