



# BEHOLD THE KING

MATTHEW

**Authority** without **mercy** is hopeless.

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**Mercy** without **authority** is injustice.

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Mercy is **feelings with feet.**

How does Jesus express mercy in Matthew 12?

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“He went on from there and entered their synagogue.” (9)

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“And a man was there with a withered hand.” (10a)

“If you had known what this means, ‘I desire mercy, and not sacrifice,’ you would not have condemned the guiltless.”

Matthew 12:7

“With what shall I come before the LORD,  
and bow myself before God on high?  
Shall I come before him with burnt offerings,  
with calves a year old?

“Will the LORD be pleased with thousands of rams, with ten thousands of rivers of oil? Shall I give my firstborn for my transgression, the fruit of my body for the sin of my soul?’

“He has told you, O man, what is good;  
and what does the LORD require of you  
but to do justice, and to love kindness,  
and to walk humbly with your God?”

Micah 6:6-8

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- Jesus mentions an attendee.
- The Pharisees **miss mercy** and **challenge Jesus**.



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“And a man was there with a withered hand.  
And they [the Pharisees] asked him [Jesus],  
‘Is it lawful to heal on the Sabbath?’” (10a)

“And his disciples asked him, ‘Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?’”

John 9:2

The Pharisees miss mercy and challenge  
Jesus ... again.

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“‘Is it lawful to heal on the Sabbath?’ — so that they might accuse him.” (10b)

“Our mishnah discusses taking medicine or performing acts of healing on Shabbat.

“If there is any danger to a person’s life, even a potential danger, all medicines and acts of healing are permitted. Indeed they are mandated.

“However, the sages forbade the use of medicines which are for aches, pains, etc. that are not life-threatening.

“According to most commentators, the reason for this prohibition is that most drugs were made by grinding roots or other parts of plants. Grinding roots is prohibited as a derivative of grinding wheat.”

Mishnah 14:3



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- Jesus exposes the Pharisees missing mercy.

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“Which one of you who has a sheep, if it falls into a pit on the Sabbath, will not take hold of it and lift it out?” (11b)

Jesus possesses and expresses divine mercy.

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- possesses **feeling**

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“Of how much more value is a man than a sheep!” (12a)

“Are not two sparrows sold for a penny? And not one of them will fall to the ground apart from your Father. But even the hairs of your head are all numbered. Fear not, therefore; you are of more value than many sparrows.”

Matthew 10:29-31

“Look at the birds of the air: they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not of more value than they?”

Matthew 6:26

“And why are you anxious about clothing?  
Consider the lilies of the field, how they  
grow: they neither toil nor spin, yet I tell you,  
even Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed  
like one of these.



“But if God so clothes the grass of the field,  
which today is alive and tomorrow is thrown  
into the oven, will he not much more clothe  
you, O you of little faith?”

Matthew 6:28-30

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- possesses feeling
- defines mercy as **good**

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“So it is lawful to do good on the Sabbath.”

(12b)

“Go and tell John what you hear and see: the blind receive their sight and the lame walk, lepers are cleansed and the deaf hear, and the dead are raised up, and the poor have good news preached to them.”

Matthew 11:4-5

Jesus possesses and expresses divine mercy.

- possesses feeling
- defines mercy as good
- expresses **mercy**

“Then he said to the man, ‘stretch out your hand.’ And the man stretched it out, and it was restored, healthy like the other.” (13)

“And the man stretched it out, and it was restored, healthy like the other.”

Matthew 12:13b

The Pharisees escalate their plans.

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“But the Pharisees went out and conspired against him [Jesus], how to destroy him.” (14)



The Pharisees conspired.

The Pharisees conspired.  
Destroying is killing.

The Pharisees conspired.  
Destroying is killing.  
Destroying is cataclysmic.

Value

Value

Threat

Value

Threat

Real responsibility

Value

Threat

Real responsibility

Self-appointed responsibility

Value

Threat

Real responsibility

Self-appointed responsibility

Response



**threatened values**

+

real/self appointed responsibility

=

**willingness to destroy**

“You shall not hate your brother in your heart, but you shall reason frankly with your neighbor, lest you incur sin because of him.

“You shall not take vengeance or bear a grudge against the sons of your own people, but you shall love your neighbor as yourself: I am the LORD.”

Leviticus 19:17-18

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- Mercy **demands need**.

“And as Jesus reclined at table in the house, behold, many tax collectors and sinners came and were reclining with Jesus and his disciples.



“And when the Pharisees saw this, they said to his disciples, ‘Why does your teacher eat with tax collectors and sinners?’

“But when he heard it, he said, ‘Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick.

“Go and learn what this means: “I desire mercy, and not sacrifice.” For I came not to call the righteous, but sinners.”

Matthew 9:10-13

## Conclusions:

- Miracles are not enough to make someone receive mercy.
- Mercy demands need.
- You will ignore mercy if you **reject** being needy and **trust** in your own authority.

- Divine mercy results in someone being able to do what they have no capacity to do on their own. (Ephesians 2:4-5)

“But God, being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which he loved us, even when we were dead in our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ — by grace you have been saved....

Ephesians 2:4-5

“For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, not a result of works, so that no one may boast.”

Ephesians 2:8-9

Mercy is mandatory.



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