

Life and Ministry of Jesus Christ Enemies Caught in Their Own Trap

Last time: Jesus Christ is the Lord of the Sabbath...
the sabbath was given by the Creator to bless man, not to burden man

This time...a trap is set by Jesus' enemies, but they get caught in their own trap
We will be in the Gospels of Matthew, Mark, and Luke...starting in Matt 12:9

Matt 12:9-14

v9 when He was departed thence:
 After Jesus corrected and instructed the tag-alongs (Pharisees) regarding their
 error about the Sabbath and His disciples innocence in eating on the road
 running through a planted grain field,
 Jesus went into the synagogue in Capernaum

But, as we will learn in Luke 6, there is a passage of time between v8 and v9

v10 man...withered hand...lawful to heal...accuse Him:

 In the synagogue are

- a man with a withered hand...weak and useless hand
- Pharisees..."they" of v2

 The Pharisees...who did not receive Jesus' correction and instruction in the
 grain field, or ever...asked Jesus a question, a leading and loaded question
 They have determined to kill Him, they are building a case against Him
 They know He will heal the man...because He is merciful
 (and has twice told them to go learn about mercy, quoting Hosea 6:6)
 They have underhandedly planned to exploit His mercy to their wicked end
 This is a trap, a set-up (Note: the first of many)

 A trap laid down by a hunter of men involves

- premeditation of a perpetrator (the hunter)
- bait...a pre-arranged situation that will "attract" the unsuspecting victim
- springing the trap
- the condemning moment captured for wicked use by the perp

 Do you know anyone (perhaps yourself) who has been set-up in such a fashion –
 entrapped to advance the agenda of wicked hearts?

 I do

v11-12 man better than a sheep:

The Lord of the Sabbath (v8) responds to the leading and loaded question by
“de-fusing” it with the practical, common sense of a pure heart

“Which one of you would ‘break’ the Sabbath by helping one of your sheep?
If you would help a sheep, how much more should you help a man (IoG)?!
So, yes, it is lawful to exercise mercy on the Sabbath.”

v13-14 Stretch forth...he stretched...Pharisees went out:

The Lord told the man with a withered hand to stretch it out...
and by simple faith he did so.

Immediately, his hand was restored to complete health and strength by Jesus

PTL, right?

Not for the Pharisees.

Jesus escaped their clever little trap.

Indignant, they hurried away to re- convene their kangaroo court to deliberate on
how to destroy/kill Jesus.

We find more details in Luke 6

Luke 6:6-11

v6 another Sabbath...taught...right hand:

We learn 3 things here to supplement the account in Matthew about this set-up to
entrap Jesus in a “criminal act”

1. another Sabbath

- after the Sabbath “violation” in v1-6...some time between
- this is a Sabbath day...another Sabbath situation

2. taught

- Jesus is again asked to teach
- He teaches with authority and power, not as the scribes

3. right hand

- the man’s right hand is withered (unknown how long)
- 70-95% of mankind is right-handed
- very high odds this man is unable to work...very needy

What might we discern about the man with a withered right hand?

1. He is merely a pawn in the wicked scheme of the Pharisees
They are all rules and no mercy so they care nothing for him...
he can be taken advantage of, a means to accomplish their end
2. He undoubtedly would want the healing and compassionate touch of
God...and Jesus knew that

v7 scribes and Pharisees:

Here we learn that it is not just the Pharisees but also the scribes in this scheme
They are watching him...as if on a stake-out but in plain view
They are looking for a crime to be committed, not a reason to PTL

All accounts combined, this is where Matt 12:10 would take place
Then we learn something else from Luke's account

v8 But He knew their thoughts:

Jesus heard their question...AND their thoughts behind it!

Already Luke 5:22 and Matt 9:4

If they had been thinking since then about that little surprise,
Gen 6:5 every imagination of the thoughts of his heart
Ps 94:11 Lord knows the thoughts of man, vanity

But Ps 10:4 the wicked: God is not in all his thoughts

And at this point in the hunting expedition...Matt 12:11-12
Then...

v9 I will ask you one thing:

Having been asked and answered a leading and loaded question by the scribes
and Pharisees, Jesus turns the tables and asks them a question...
a heart-penetrating question

“Is it lawful on the Sabbath days to

- do good or do evil?
- save life or destroy life?”

Jesus knows their thoughts/agenda/scheme...He knows this is a trap
He knows the end (what they will do next) from the beginning (what have done)

His penetrating question exposes hearts...theirs vs His

	<u>heart</u>	<u>thoughts</u>
His	good	save life, the man's
theirs	evil	destroy life, His (Matt 12:14)

Jesus publicly exposes the wickedness of the scribes and Pharisees

v10-11 looking round about them all...filled with madness:

Having asked His question that penetrated and exposed their heart, Jesus looks every one of them in the eye

When He has completed His penetrating look into all of their eyes, He looks kindly upon the man they have used as a pawn to entrap Him... and heals him – an undeniable demonstration of the love and power of God Almighty

At which point the scribes and Pharisees are...filled with madness!

The penetrating question and penetrating look of Jesus into each of their eyes had no effect on them

They are not humbled or ashamed

They are not impressed or awed

They are enraged

They huddle up to plan what they can get away with to kill Jesus

Craziness!

There are still more details in Mark 3

Mark 3:1-6

v1-4 but they held their peace:

In addition to what we learned in Matt and Luke, we learn here that the scribes and Pharisees, when asked the heart-penetrating question by Jesus, "pleaded the 5th"

They were not able (befuddled) or not willing (to incriminate themselves) to answer His question

Jesus is innocent, they are the criminals

We learn more details from Mark's account

v5 with anger, being grieved for the hardness of their hearts:
How did Jesus look at every scribe and Pharisee with His penetrating eyes?

1. With anger

Yikes!

The God of AI&J has been provoked to anger by Israel (Ps 106)

- in the wilderness between Egypt and the Promised Land
- in His land, resulting in captivity into Assyria, Babylon

Is 1:4 provoked the Holy One of Israel to anger

Now, He is face-to-face with them, looking them right in the eye...
individually...with that anger

2. Grieved

By the hardness of their hearts

- unbelief...that He is Who He says/does He is
- uncaring...for others, caring only for themselves
- unmerciful...kindness on the sabbath was a crime
- self-righteousness

Gen 6:6 grieved Him in His heart

1 Sam 15:11 Lord lamented that set up Saul as king, not followed

btw...when we are that way, we grieve the Holy Spirit Who
indwells us (Eph 4:30)

Never One to

- turn His back on someone in need
- pass up a teaching moment
- not rebuke evil

Jesus tells the afflicted man to “Stand in the midst” of all present in the synagogue

v6 with the Herodians:

The scribes and the Pharisees marched out of the synagogue in Capernaum to
conspire on how to kill Jesus...which took them right to the Herodians
(since the Jews had no authority of capital punishment)

scribes and Pharisees: Religion

Herodians: Gov't

Religion and Gov't are natural opponents...until it comes to Jesus Christ and His
followers

Religion and Gov't will set their differences aside and collaborate against
Jesus Christ (Kok and Lol) just as they did against John the Baptist...
both being threats to the political and religious foundation of their world

The trap set by the scribes and Pharisees to catch Jesus caught...the scribes and Pharisees
Jesus escaped but they are exposed as frauds

1. their shameful use of a very needy man as a pawn in a wicked scheme is exposed
2. their false teaching about the Sabbath is exposed
3. their merciless heart is exposed
4. their plan to kill Jesus is exposed (Mark 3:4, Luke 6:9)

Jesus wins and the Pharisees/scribes lose...again...filling them with madness and driving them
to make an alliance with the Roman government

The Jesus Christ-rejecting world is filled with madness...now just as then
There is so much craziness in the world and in our “Christian” nation
What is going on?
How did we get here?
How do we make sense of the 2015 world around us, the world we are in but not of?

Religion and Gov’t have collaborated, are collaborating, and will collaborate against Jesus Christ
(and His Body) because He threatens the political and religious foundations of their
world

Always in conflict: God’s world view (Bible) vs man’s world view (humanism)

Jer 25:31 The Lord has controversy (strife/contention) with the nations,
He will plead with all flesh

Life and Ministry of Jesus Christ...continual conflict, during “last days” (Heb 1:2),
during “times of the Gentiles” (Dan 2, 7)
Birth of the Church...by the Holy Spirit, fueled by persecution of man (Religion, Gov’t)

Roman Empire: 4th Gentile kingdom, based on Greek thinking and culture
Humanism rules
Bible rises (early Church standing on the Word of God)

powerful, but had no answers for the basic problems faced by man
gods were amplified humanity, not an Infinite God

social breakdown and violence led to an authoritarian Gov’t – the Caesars
Augustus Caesar was worshipped as god and became the head of the state
religion...Pontifex Maximus
persecuted followers of Jesus Christ not because they worshipped Jesus Christ but
because they would not worship the Caesars...threatening the state

decay: thirst for violence, gratification of the senses, rampant sexuality, apathy
social and political turmoil...collapse and division (East and West)

The Holy Roman Empire: Christianity as governor (9th – 18th centuries)

Bible rules...in name but not in practice (King is a Christian)

Humanism rises

Humanism (man as the center, autonomous from God) corrupted pure Christianity

Thomas Aquinas successfully incorporated the teachings of Aristotle into
mainstream Christian teaching – mixing Christian and non-Christian
thinking

The authority of the Church took precedence over the authority of the Bible

Salvation rested on man's works/merit instead of Christ's work/merit alone

The Pope took the title Pontifex Maximus and claimed supreme authority over
Christendom (Europe)

The Renaissance: secular Christianity (14th – 16th centuries)

Humanism rises

Bible fades

Man as the center of all things (humanism)

The meaning of life starts with man

Man is the final authority of truth and values

Truth is subjective, relative, arbitrary

Freedom without absolutes led to license and chaos

The Reformation: return to Biblical Christianity (15th – 18th centuries)

Bible rises

Humanism fades

Sola Scriptura...the Bible is the Final Authority, NOT the Church

Absolute God of absolute, objective Truth gives meaning to life

Salvation only by the work/merit of Jesus Christ

Freedom with absolutes led to liberty and order

There must be absolute truth if there is to be morals, values,
meaning to life

Absolute Truth is revealed in the Word of God

Responsibility of people, including kings, to God's Word

Lex Rex: Law is King (Samuel Rutherford)

Gov't of Law because the Bible was the Final Authority

Bloodless Revolution in England – monarchs partner with Parliament

US Constitution

The Scientific Revolution (15th – 19th centuries)

No conflict with the Bible, the Bible was the foundation of science

The Creator God revealed Himself to man in His creation and His Word...

man could know Him by studying His orderly creation

Biblical Christianity is the mother of science...the great scientists were
followers of Jesus Christ/Bible

The Enlightenment: Christianity removed from society (18th – 19th centuries)

Humanism rises

Bible fades

French philosopher Voltaire

Men and society were perfectible...humanism

The “supreme being” was the will of the people...the state

Pushed aside Christianity and Reformation thinking

French Revolution (“England without the Bible” as a bloody mess!)

Communism and Socialism (oppression and tyranny)

Arbitrary truth, no absolutes (no certain right or wrong)...confusion vs order

Modern Man (19th century – today)

Humanism rules

Bible fades

The rejection of absolutes

Man as the center of all things, the source of morals, values, the meaning of life

Science became a humanistic agenda vs an honest quest to learn about Creator

No place for God...no boundaries for what should man do vs what can man do

The Word of God is removed from society, replaced by Evolution and psychology
and sociology

All that matters is personal peace and affluence...but neither have meaning

Man discovers he has no answers within himself...life lost its meaning
and love died, hope died

Govt’s move toward tyranny

Lex Rex becomes Rex Lex

Law is King to King is Law...good-bye Constitutional rights, freedoms

Absolute, objective Truth has perished...consensus is truth or Courts declare it

Abortion

Homosexual marriage (moral slippery slopes all)

Gender confusion

Without a personal God, all is meaningless and hopeless

What is next? (21st century)

USA already has

- Legislative paralysis or “fatalism” (nothing changes, doesn’t matter)
- Executive tyranny/authoritarianism (POTUS and candidates)
- Judicial law making and elites defining “truth”

Social breakdown and violence is leading to authoritarian Gov’t by the elites

Authoritarian Gov’t will fill the vacuum of the loss of Christian world view

Man is created in the image of God

Absolute, objective truth

Value/sanctity of human life, regardless of age or medical condition

Definition of “family” and “marriage”

Man reconciled to God thru the work of Jesus Christ

Populace manipulated by: psychology, “science”, the media/news makers

Dissenters are “ill” (mentally ill, crazy) or are non-persons

Come full circle back to the Roman Empire under Augustus Caesar

decay: thirst for violence, gratification of senses, rampant sexuality,
apathy

social and political turmoil...will lead to collapse and division

persecution of the followers of Jesus Christ

Is there any prophetic significance in that – end of Rome/Western Civilization?!

Dan 2, Dan 7, Dan 9, Rev 2-3

Things have come full circle...back to the days of Jesus’ 1st Coming

Things are because of how they were – history is a flow of people and events in time

Jesus Christ is at the very center of the madness/craziness in the world...

their rejection of Him because He threatens the very foundation of their world

Satan, the prince of this world, is trying to stop the Truth by replacing it with lies...

entrapping men’s souls

Jer 28:15 (false prophets/teachers) make this people to trust a lie

during the Life and Ministry of Jesus Christ

even unto our day

Jesus Christ is grieved by all this unbelief on earth...and soon, angry.

But we are “Reformation thinkers” and followers of Jesus Christ...our world view is the Bible
We stand on the Final Authority of the Word of God and proclaim the Gov’t, consensus, society
to be wrong!

No authoritarian Gov’t will tolerate those who

- have absolute Truth and therefore able to pass judgment on its arbitrary truth and values
- speak and act out on the absolute Truth

But, without Jesus Christ, the people in this society have

- No truth
- No hope
- No meaning of life
- No life

To state it in the contrary, with Jesus Christ we have

- truth
- hope
- meaning of life
- life

So we MUST speak and act out on Absolute Truth, even in the face of wicked opposition

We, as the witnesses of Jesus Christ and the ambassadors of the Kok, must

- not turn our backs on people in need (forgiveness, salvation)
- not pass up any teaching moments (evangelize, making disciples)
- rebuke evil

Will we “roll over”, deceived that our liberties and lifestyles will remain unchanged and blind to the “state of the union”??

Will we care more about our personal peace and affluence than the lost (facing eternal torment)?

Will we stand up, speak, and act...being the salt Jesus teaches us to be?

If we stand with Jesus Christ and speak and act on Absolute Truth

- Religion that has become like society (“relevant”, humanistic) will oppose us
- Gov’t will oppose us
- Religion and Gov’t will collaborate against us...because we threaten their world, as did Jesus Christ

But, Religion and Gov’t...Humanism...will get caught in their own trap

tbd: will we escape the trap with Jesus or get caught in that trap and exposed as frauds?

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Today: Days of Lot (Luke 17:28-30, S&G in Jer and Ezk)

Jer 23:14 adultery, live lies, strengthen evildoers, not repent of wickedness

Ezk 16:46-50 pride, prosperity, abundance of idleness, ignore poor and needy, haughty,
committed abominations

preceeded by:

Jer 2:34 shed innocent blood (children per Ps 106:37-38)

Jer 7:28 receive not correction, truth is perished

Jer 9:3-5 His people are not valiant for the Truth, know not the Lord,
speak lies

Jer 10:21 pastors are brutish...like cows (nobody home!)

Jer 12:10 pastors have destroyed the Lord's vineyard