

Growing Hostility of the Pharisees

Objective: Given Matt. 9,12; Mark 2; Lk 5-6 the learner **SHALL** learn that not all turn to Jesus

Introduction

- **Who am I?**

- **[CLICK]** My name is Steve Mood, I was born July 6, 1956; graduated from Magnolia High School in 1974; graduated from UCI in 1978 with a degree in Electrical Engineering; graduated from Biola in 1987.
- **Question:** Does this tell my whole story? No
- **[CLICK]** I was married in 1982 to Heidi, had three boys born in 1986, 1988, and 1992. Our oldest graduated from UCI with a BS computer Engineering; our middle son graduated with a BS Computer Science from Point Loma Nazarene and a PhD in Computer Science from University of Florida; our youngest graduated from Biola with BS in Bio Chemistry and currently is at UCI working on his PhD in Organic Chemistry. He was married four ago and we are expecting our first grandchild within a few weeks.
- **Question:** Does this tell my whole story? No
- **[CLICK]** I have a passion for reading – starting with winning the reading contest in 3rd grade and have averaged reading more than 50 books a year since Junior High. I have a passion for chess and came in 2nd place in 8th grade and won a number of tournaments after college. I have a passion for my family and spending time with them, at Disneyland, at swim meets, or going on cruises together.
- **Question:** Does this tell my whole story? No. What is missing?
- I became a Christian when I was senior in High School in 1974. After I graduated from college in 1978 I felt my brain was not being challenged and basically after growing up in a non-Christian family I started going to Biola in 1979 to learn more about the Bible and working on a Master of Divinity in Bible Exposition, graduating in 1987. I have a passion for God and my desire is that I can be conformed to his will and bring glory to his name.
- Over the years God has used me in many ways and what is relevant to today, I started leading a home Bible Study in 1979, then teaching college/career group for a while, then kindergarten, 4th grade, 5-6th graders, adults (ABF Crossroads), and now a plus 55 group. I have taught the Bible for the last 30 years at last once a week.
- Each of these together present a picture of who I am, but...
- **Question:** Is it complete? No it is not. Is it enough to know who I am? Not really. Does it give an indication of who I am? Yes it does. Does it give some facts and history, and passions in my life? Yes it does.
- Just as the items presented provide an insight into who I am, so the gospels give insight into the nature of Jesus. What the gospels do that my summary does not show is the truth of who Jesus is and shows us what God wants us to know about Jesus. The gospels are the inspired Word of God and present God's Word to us about Jesus' time on earth.

- **[CLICK] Context – Synoptic Gospels**

- Our study this year is focused on the three synoptic gospels: Matthew, Mark, and Luke.
- Synoptic Means: "Seeing or viewing together" – They deal with the same subject matter and are similar in structure, content, and wording, while the fourth gospel by John has a different style and presents details that are almost all unique to John.
- **[CLICK]** Matthew –**Messianic King of the Jews**, Apostle, Jew -> To the Jews, fulfillment of OT prophecy
- Mark – **Suffering Servant**, associate of Peter -> To the Roman church

- Luke – **Son of Man**, Gentile – a doctor, associate of Paul - > To the Greeks
- John – **Son of God**, Apostle, Jews -> To both Jews and Gentiles, as savior of the world
- Together they show different aspects of Jesus. They do not contradict. Together they show us a picture of Jesus of Nazareth that presents him as the promised Messiah, the Christ, the prophesied King, the Servant of God, and the Savior of the World.

Lesson

- Today we turn our attention to a series of five short stories or vignettes of Jesus after his public ministry had started in Galilee.
 - **[CLICK]** Matthew 9:1-17; 12:1-14; Mark 2:1-3:6; and Luke 5:17-6:11
 - Consulting my “Harmony of the Gospels” by Robert Thomas and Stanley Gundry indicate that all five short stories are repeated in each of the three synoptic Gospels and relate to the same events.
 - **[CLICK]** Matthew 9:1-8; Mark 2:1-2; Luke 5:17-26 – Healing of the Paralytic
 - Matthew 9:9-13; Mark 2:13-17; Luke 5:27-32 – Banquet at Matthew’s house
 - Matthew 9:14-17; Mark 2:18-22; Luke 5:33-39 – Question on Fasting
 - Matthew 12:1-8; Mark 2:23-28; Luke 6:1-5 – Disciples picking grain on the Sabbath
 - Matthew 12:9-14; Mark 3:1-6; Luke 6:6-11 – Healing of the man with the withered hand on the Sabbath
 - I don’t know about you but I have this vague impression that Jesus was accepted for most of his ministry and followed by huge crowds and it was only at the end his life that opposition began, but that is not true.
 - **Question:** When did the opposition Jesus start? You could say at least by the time of Herod and you wouldn’t be wrong. But the point of study today/tonight is that opposition to Jesus’ ministry by the people and particularly the religious leaders began during the early part of his second full year of ministry.
 - The five passages today show us a progression of the thoughts and attitudes of the Pharisees, scribes, and teachers of the Law. They were part of the religious elite during the time of Jesus and they knew that the Messiah was coming and yet they could not accept Jesus as the Messiah.
- **[CLICK] Vignette #1: Healing of the Paralytic (Mt 9:1-8; Mk 2:1-2; Lk 5:17-26)**
 - **Luke 5:17** *On one of those days, as he was teaching, Pharisees and teachers of the law were sitting there, who had come from every village of Galilee and Judea and from Jerusalem.*
 - **Question:** Who was there to hear Jesus? Pharisees and teachers of the law. Why were they there? To learn, listen, and evaluate. They had come from everywhere to hear Jesus. They were drawn to Jesus from all the areas of Judea and Galilee to Capernaum to listen to this new teacher.
 - **[CLICK] Luke 5:18-20** *And behold, some men were bringing on a bed a man who was paralyzed, and they were seeking to bring him in and lay him before Jesus, but finding no way to bring him in, because of the crowd, they went up on the roof and let him down with his bed through the tiles into the midst before Jesus. And when he saw their faith, he said, “Man, your sins are forgiven you.”*
 - The room was crowded with many people including the Pharisees. Four friends brought a man who couldn’t walk on his own to see Jesus. They had to come through the roof to get to Jesus. They had come to have their friend healed.
 - **Question:** What did Jesus say to him? Rise up and walk? No. He said your sins are forgiven.
 - **Question:** Why would Jesus do this? He knew what the man really needed: to be right with God. His physical problem was not the most important problem he had. Sin breaks our relationship with God and one sin is enough to prevent a person from going to heaven and being with Jesus forever.
 - **Question:** How did the Pharisees respond?
 - **[CLICK] Mark 2:6-7** *Now some of the scribes were sitting there, questioning in their hearts, “Why does this man speak like that? He is blaspheming! Who can forgive sins but God alone?”*

- [CLICK] **Step #1:** The Pharisees **thought** in their heart –Jesus was blaspheming.
- They knew that for someone to be truly be forgiven was only possible by God. They immediately made the leap that Jesus was claiming to be God.
- Jesus knew what they were thinking and he immediately responded to them...
- [CLICK] **Matt. 9:4-6** *But Jesus, knowing their thoughts, said, “Why do you think evil in your hearts? For which is easier, to say, ‘Your sins are forgiven,’ or to say, ‘Rise and walk’? But that you may know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins”—he then said to the paralytic—“Rise, pick up your bed and go home.”*
- Jesus proved that He had the power to forgive because he also had the power to heal.
- [CLICK] **Mark 2:12** *And he rose and immediately picked up his bed and went out before them all, so that they were all amazed and glorified God, saying, “We never saw anything like this!”*
- The people were amazed and it says “all” glorified God. Even the Pharisees? Maybe...
- **Question:** What do we learn in this first vignette?
 - [CLICK] Jesus has the power to **heal** and **forgive** for He is **God**. We can turn to him in our time of need and He can act to deal with our needs – whether it is physical or spiritual healing.
 - [CLICK] Jesus has the **power** to **discern** our thoughts and we cannot hide from Him.
 - **Psa 139:4** *Even before a word is on my tongue, behold, O Lord, you know it altogether.*
 - [CLICK] When we are presented with the claims of Christ we can either **reject** or **accept** Him. There are no other options. The Pharisees who came to observe this teacher saw Him perform a miracle and forgive a man. They didn’t take the next step of believing in Jesus.
- [CLICK] **Vignette #2:** Banquet at Matthew’s house (Mt 9:9-13; Mk 2:13-17; Lk 5:27-32)
 - Jesus called Matthew, who was also called Levi, to follow Him and he left everything – even though he was a successful businessman. He abandoned his business to learn more about Jesus. He then decided to throw a party.
 - **Question:** What kind of people would he invite? The people he knew and his friends...
 - [CLICK] **Luke 5:27-29** *After this he went out and saw a tax collector named Levi, sitting at the tax booth. And he said to him, “Follow me.” And leaving everything, he rose and followed him. And Levi made him a great feast in his house, and there was a large company of tax collectors and others reclining at table with them.*
 - His friends were not the most upstanding of citizens, but it was the people he knew and associated with and he wanted them to **hear** Jesus and also **turn** to him.
 - [CLICK] **Matt. 9:11** *And when the Pharisees saw this, they said to his disciples, “Why does your teacher eat with tax collectors and sinners?”*
 - **Question:** What did the Pharisees say? That Jesus was eating with the wrong type of people. Wouldn’t a wise and knowledgeable teacher know the type of company he was spending time with? Outrageous!
 - [CLICK] **Step #2:** The Pharisees **complained** to his disciples – He was not acting like a Messiah
 - Jesus heard the question they asked and responded in very enlightening way...
 - [CLICK] **Matt. 9:12-13** *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.”*
 - Jesus told them he came to those who had a need and who acknowledged their need. The highlighted phrase does not occur in the other gospels and is very similar to...

- [CLICK] Hosea 6:6 *For I desire steadfast love and not sacrifice, the knowledge of God rather than burnt offerings.*
- God is more concerned with your heart than the outward and visible manifestation of supposed righteousness. Does God care about how we act? Of course. Does God care about our heart attitude? More than outward signs.
- **Question:** What do we learn in the second vignette?
 - [CLICK] Jesus was willing to go where he needed to go to tell people the gospel and have people respond to their need of God
 - [CLICK] Jesus wants our hearts to be totally committed to Him
 - [CLICK] When we examine Jesus we have to listen to what He says and not judge him by our own inbuilt prejudices.
- [CLICK] **Vignette #3:** Question on Fasting (Mt 9:14-17; Mk 2:18-22; Lk 5:33-39)
 - **Matt. 9:14** *Then the disciples of John came to him, saying, “Why do we and the Pharisees fast, but your disciples do not fast?”*
 - [CLICK] **Step #3:** The Pharisees **complained** about his theology – He was not following tradition
 - **Question:** How many fasts are proclaimed in the Mosaic Law? There is only one allusion to it in...
 - [CLICK] **Lev 23:32** *It shall be to you a Sabbath of solemn rest, and you shall afflict yourselves.*
 - **Question:** How many fasts do the Jews have? Six official ones, plus about six lesser ones. It was part of Jewish tradition and based upon non-Biblical writings (Talmud).
 - [CLICK] **Matt 9:15** *And Jesus said to them, “Can the wedding guests mourn as long as the bridegroom is with them? The days will come when the bridegroom is taken away from them, and then they will fast.*
 - Jesus tells that believers in him will fast **after** He has left them, not before. The Jews fasted because it was tradition and often their tradition was of more importance to them than what the Bible says.
 - [CLICK] Dr. Curtis Mitchell quoted Bibliotheca Sacra, Oct 1990, says, “*The main point is that fasting should not be practiced because Jewish or church tradition demands it, but fasting should be practiced in times of sorrow. Since believers today are not under the Mosaic Law, there is to be no regularly scheduled fasting. Christian fasting should not be compulsory.*”
 - **Question:** What is the point? Fasting is not based upon tradition but a time of turning to God.
 - Jesus then makes statements about repairing old cloth with a new patch and new wine in an old wineskin that teaches us about the new covenant as stated in...
 - [CLICK] **Jer. 9:31-33** *Behold, the days are coming, declares the Lord, when I will make a **new covenant** with the house of Israel and the house of Judah, not like the **covenant** that I made with their fathers on the day when I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt, my **covenant** that they broke, though I was their husband, declares the Lord. For this is the **covenant** that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, declares the Lord: **I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts. And I will be their God, and they shall be my people.***
 - **Question:** What do we learn in the third vignette?
 - [CLICK] Jesus is more concerned about Biblical principles than traditional rules.
 - [CLICK] Jesus wants us to be focused on God’s Word and not the theories of man.
 - [CLICK] Jewish leaders of Jesus’ time were more concerned about their traditions than the plain Word of God.
- [CLICK] **Vignette #4:** Disciples picking grain on the Sabbath (Mt 12:1-8; Mk 2:23-28; Lk 6:1-5)
 - **Matt. 12:1** *At that time Jesus went through the grain fields on the Sabbath. His disciples were hungry, and they began to pluck heads of grain and to eat.*

- **Question:** What is the problem here? According to Jewish tradition plucking grain was equivalent to reaping the crops and this was forbidden by Jewish tradition on the Sabbath.
- **[CLICK]** **Luke 6:2** *But some of the Pharisees said, “Why are you doing what is not lawful to do on the Sabbath?”*
- The Pharisee had taken the one commandment to rest on the Sabbath and do no work and then created 39 rules governing what works was. These are not Biblical, but the Sabbath traditions dominated the Pharisees of Jesus’ day.
- **[CLICK]** **Step #4:** The Pharisees **complained** about his disciples’ adherence to the Law – or at least their interpretation of the law.
- **[CLICK]** **Mark 2:25-26** *And he said to them, “Have you never read what David did, when he was in need and was hungry, he and those who were with him: how he entered the house of God, in the time of Abiathar the high priest, and ate the bread of the Presence, which it is not lawful for any but the priests to eat, and also gave it to those who were with him?”*
- Jesus answers their accusation with an example from the Old Testament where David violated a principle and was not admonished.
- **[CLICK]** **bible.org** states: *Here, Jesus could have referred His critics to His disciples, since He had not gathered any heads of grain for Himself, nor had He eaten any. He could have pointed to the fact that the Torah nowhere called such a minimal effort work, and that this was only the fallacious conclusion of some misguided, knit-picking scholars. Instead, Jesus chose to let these technical matters go by the boards. He wanted to discuss the interpretation of the Sabbath and His activities, which could be construed to be a breaking of the Fourth Commandment. Here is a matter Jesus did want to discuss, and He sidestepped every peripheral issue to get to the heart of the matter.*
- **[CLICK]** **Mark 2:27-28** *And he said to them, “The Sabbath was made for man, not man for the Sabbath. So the Son of Man is lord even of the Sabbath.”*
- Jesus wanted the Pharisee to understand that man was not confined by the Sabbath but that the Sabbath was **given as a gift to man** for physical and spiritual refreshment.
- **Question:** What do we learn in the fourth vignette?
 - **[CLICK]** Jesus and his disciples did not violate Biblical Law in relationship to Sabbath
 - **[CLICK]** Jesus wanted the Pharisees to keep the focus on the core issue, not peripheral ones.
 - **[CLICK]** When we approach how we operate and what we believe, the Bible is our guide and standard.
- **[CLICK]** **Vignette #5:** Healing of the man with the withered hand on the Sabbath (Mt 12:9-14; Mk 3:1-6; Lk 6:6-11)
 - **Matt 12: 9-10** *He went on from there and entered their synagogue. And a man was there with a withered hand. And they asked him, “Is it lawful to heal on the Sabbath?”—so that they might accuse him.*
 - Here the final step has been taken:
 - **[CLICK]** **Step #5:** The Pharisees **wanted to** find something that they could accuse him of.
 - The time for honestly looking at Jesus as the potential Messiah has come and gone. They are openly hostile to him and want nothing more than to discredit him.
 - **[CLICK]** **Matt. 12:11-12** *He said to them, “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? Of how much more value is a man than a sheep! So it is lawful to do good on the Sabbath.”*
 - **Question:** What is Jesus trying to do? He wants them to understand that doing good, even on a Sabbath, is more important than obeying human rules and regulations. Remember that the Sabbath was made for man

and not man for the Sabbath. He wants the focus to be put on the more important thing: the physical and spiritual needs of man.

- **[CLICK] Mark 3:5** *And he looked around at them with anger, grieved at their hardness of heart, and said to the man, "Stretch out your hand." He stretched it out, and his hand was restored.*
- Their hearts were **hardened**. Their minds made up. Jesus took the step to meet a physical need, the man's problem, but also to reinforce the principle that He had the right to heal on the Sabbath. He is God and He has the right to show his power.
- **Matt. 12:14** *But the Pharisees went out and conspired against him, how to destroy him.*
- **[CLICK] Step #6:** The Pharisees wanted to kill Jesus.

- Conclusion

- **Question:** What do we learn about the growth of the Pharisee's opposition to Jesus? It was progression and from curiosity about Jesus to a desire to have Jesus die
 - **[CLICK] Step #1:** The Pharisees **thought** in their heart – Jesus was speaking **blasphemous** things
 - **Step #2:** The Pharisees **complained** to his disciples – Jesus was not **acting** like a Messiah
 - **Step #3:** The Pharisees **complained** about his theology – Jesus was not **following** tradition
 - **[CLICK] Step #4:** The Pharisees **complained** about his disciples' adherence to their **interpretation** of the Law
 - **Step #5:** The Pharisees **wanted to find** something that they could **accuse** him of
 - **Step #6:** The Pharisees **wanted to kill** Jesus – ridicule and criticism was not enough, Jesus had to **die**
- **Question:** What practical applications have we learned?
 - Jesus has the power to **heal** and **forgive** for He is **God**. We can turn to him in our time of need and He can act to deal with our needs – whether it is physical or spiritual healing.
 - Jesus has the power to **discern** our **thoughts** and we cannot hide from Him.
 - Jesus wants our **hearts** to be fully **committed** to Him
 - Jesus wants us to be **focused** on God's Word and not the **theories** or **traditions** of man
 - We need to honestly and without prejudice **examine the claims of Christ** – We can either accept or reject Him.
 - **1 Tim. 2:3-4** *This is good, and it is pleasing in the sight of God our Savior, who desires all people to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth.*
 - God wants all to turn to Him, but it is a personal choice, for God will never force someone into heaven and to be with him forever.