

A Harmony of the Gospels

Sabbath Controversies and Withdrawals

Healing of a man's shriveled hand on the Sabbath

Matthew 12:9-14; Mark 3:1-6; Luke 6:6-11

- The heart of the Pharisees is revealed by the fact that they were more concerned with pointing out someone's infraction of their rules than a man being healed.
- Jesus knew their hearts as revealed by their response of leaving that place and, on the Sabbath day, plotting to destroy Jesus. This provides the context for His question. They were condemning Him for doing good on the Sabbath while they were going to plot against Him on the Sabbath.

Healing of a man's shriveled hand on the Sabbath

Matthew 12:9-14; Mark 3:1-6; Luke 6:6-11

- Note that Jesus looked at them with anger but He did not act based on His anger.
 - He was grieved at their hardness of heart
 - He healed the man's hand.

Withdrawal to the Sea of Galilee with large crowds from many places Matthew 12:15-21; Mark 3:7-12

- The popularity of Jesus increases with the general populace at this point while the religious leaders become increasingly hostile.
- You could imagine in a day when medical treatments were extremely limited people would seek any remedy and relief they could find.
- The mention again of the kingdom of darkness being overcome by the kingdom of God

Appointment of the Twelve and Sermon on the Mount

Twelve Chosen Mark 3:13-19; Luke 6:12-16

- Note how prayer is central to the life and work of Jesus
Luke 6:12
- By this time there were many who would have called themselves followers of Jesus. He chose twelve from among them
- Apostle-one who is sent out.
- Twofold purpose:
 - The opportunity to be with Him
 - The opportunity to go out to preach and minister in His power.
- These included common working people, a tax collector, a militant and one who would betray Him.

Setting of the sermon

Matthew 5:1-2; Luke 6:17-19

- The sea of Galilee is surrounded by mountains. The traditional location for the Sermon on the Mount is what can be described as a natural amphitheater on the north western shore of the sea of Galilee.



Blessings of those who inherit the kingdom and woes to those who do not Matthew 5:3-12; Luke 6:20-26

- The first step of salvation is to recognize our poverty of spirit
- The response to the recognition of poverty of spirit that leads to salvation is grief over our condition.
- Meekness is submission to proper authority. When we turn control of our lives over to God that is the most appropriate expression of meekness.

Blessings of those who inherit the kingdom and woes to those who do not Matthew 5:3-12; Luke 6:20-26

- God then places within us a desire to follow Him and promises to fulfill our hunger and thirst for righteousness.
- Only those who have received God's mercy can adequately extend that mercy to others.
- The atoning work of the Lord Jesus Christ produces a pure heart.
- Those who have experienced peace with God will work toward sharing the gospel which brings peace to others.

Blessings of those who inherit the kingdom and
woes to those who do not Matthew 5:3-12; Luke
6:20-26

- Friendship with God brings the hostility of the world.
- It is an honor to suffer the hostility of the world for the cause of Christ.
- We are to rejoice in the face of persecution

Blessings of those who inherit the kingdom and woes to those who do not Matthew 5:3-12; Luke 6:20-26

- God produces a sense of fulfillment and satisfaction when we respond to persecution with rejoicing.
- In Luke's account woes are pronounced on those who are blinded by their physical comforts and do not see a need for a relationship with God.