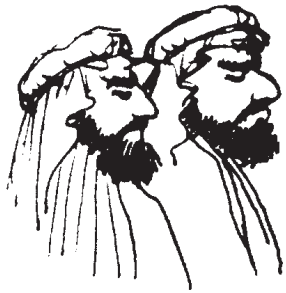


Matthew 12

*Do not be overcome by evil but overcome evil with good.
Romans 12:21*

Readings this week:

- S Matthew 12:1-21
- M Matthew 12:22-37
- T Matthew 12:38-50
- W Matthew 22:1-14
- Th Matthew 22:23-46
- F Matthew 23:1-22
- S Matthew 23:23-39



The Pharisees saw the disciples of Jesus [stealing wheat from a field / rubbing grains in their hands and eating it]. **They** [accused them of breaking the Sabbath because they really cared about what God thought of the disciples / wanted to show up Jesus and prove his disciples were sinners].

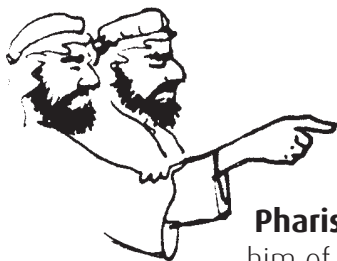
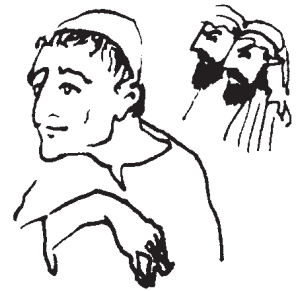
Jesus [shouted at them for picking on his disciples / answered them patiently, quoting from the Old Testament].



In the synagogue, the Pharisees asked Jesus, "Is it lawful to heal on the Sabbath?" because [they really wanted to know / they wanted to accuse him of doing wrong]. **Jesus asked if they would pull their own sheep out of a pit on the Sabbath. He asked this** [to teach the Pharisees how much God cares about people / to show the Pharisees up so everyone would laugh at them].



When Jesus healed the man's hand, the Pharisees [were amazed and realised he must be the son of God / plotted how to kill Jesus]. **When Jesus knew they were planning to kill him,** [he went to see them and demanded an explanation / he went away somewhere else].



When Jesus healed the blind and dumb man, the Pharisees [realised that at last Jesus had the power of God / accused him of getting his power from a false god]. **Jesus** [was so cross that he refused to speak to the Pharisees again / patiently taught them and warned them again].



The Pharisees and scribes asked Jesus to show them a miracle [because they had never seen Jesus perform a miracle / because they wanted to trap him somehow].

Now make a list of words describing the attitudes and behaviour of Jesus in these incidents.

Do you behave in this way towards people who oppose you?

Should you?

Read Matthew 5:43-48. What does it tell you about what to do in this sort of situation?

Do you think Jesus prayed for the Pharisees?

What might he have said?

How does the example of Jesus in the lesson help you to answer these questions:

How important is it for you to keep your temper when people taunt you or annoy you?

Should you show people up if you get the opportunity?

Is it reasonable to demand people give you your rights all the time?

Digging Deeper

Jesus' earthly family

Apart from opposition from Pharisees, Jesus had opposition from his family

At the end of Matthew 12 there is a little account of Jesus mother and brothers wanting to speak to him. Read Matthew 12:46-50. Do you think Jesus sounded hard on his mother?

Look at these verses and try to build up a picture of Jesus' brothers and sisters and what they did later.

Matthew 13:55-56

John 7:1-5

John 19:26-27

John 20:17

Acts 1:12-14

1 Corinthians 9:5

Galatians 1:18-19

Who can be Jesus' family?

Matthew 12:50

Please help me to be kind to people and show your love to them, however they treat me.