

# Sermon Outline

## “Mercy on the Sabbath”

### Matthew 12:9-14

#### I. The Sabbath controversy

- A** Regarding sustenance vv. 1-5
- B** Jesus’ authority establishes the priority vv. 6-8
- A<sup>1</sup>** Regarding mercy to others vv. 9-13

#### II. Structure of the passage

- A** Jesus enters the synagogue v. 9
- B** The damaged man needs healing v. 10a
- C** Permitted activity on the Sabbath questioned v. 10b
- D** Jesus instructs by analogy v. 11-12a
- C<sup>1</sup>** Permitted activity on the Sabbath explained v. 12b
- B<sup>1</sup>** The damaged man is given healing v. 13
- A<sup>1</sup>** Pharisees leave the synagogue v. 14

#### III. Lessons from the passage

Consideration of case law: oxen – sheep – men vv. 11-12

Ex 23:4; Dt 22:4; (Prov 12:10a); Lk 14:1-6 – oxen

Mt 12:11 – sheep

Mt 12:12 – men are more important than sheep (*cf.* Mt 6:26)

The laws are to be applied by analogy (*cf.* I Tim 5:17-18)

Remember Jesus’ central point: serving God is about mercy v. 7

(Hosea 6:6; Mt 9:13; Micah 6:6-8)

Implications for the “Christian Sabbath”

Positive duties:

“works of necessity and mercy” – WSC (*cf.* Q 68, 71)

“good works and humble service of the sick, the infirm, and the elderly” – Baltimore Catechism

“Not only is he delinquent who intends anything against the law but also he who neglects his duty.” – Calvin

Application of the Golden Rule Mt 7:12

Like Jesus, we must seek to do positive good on the Lord’s Day.