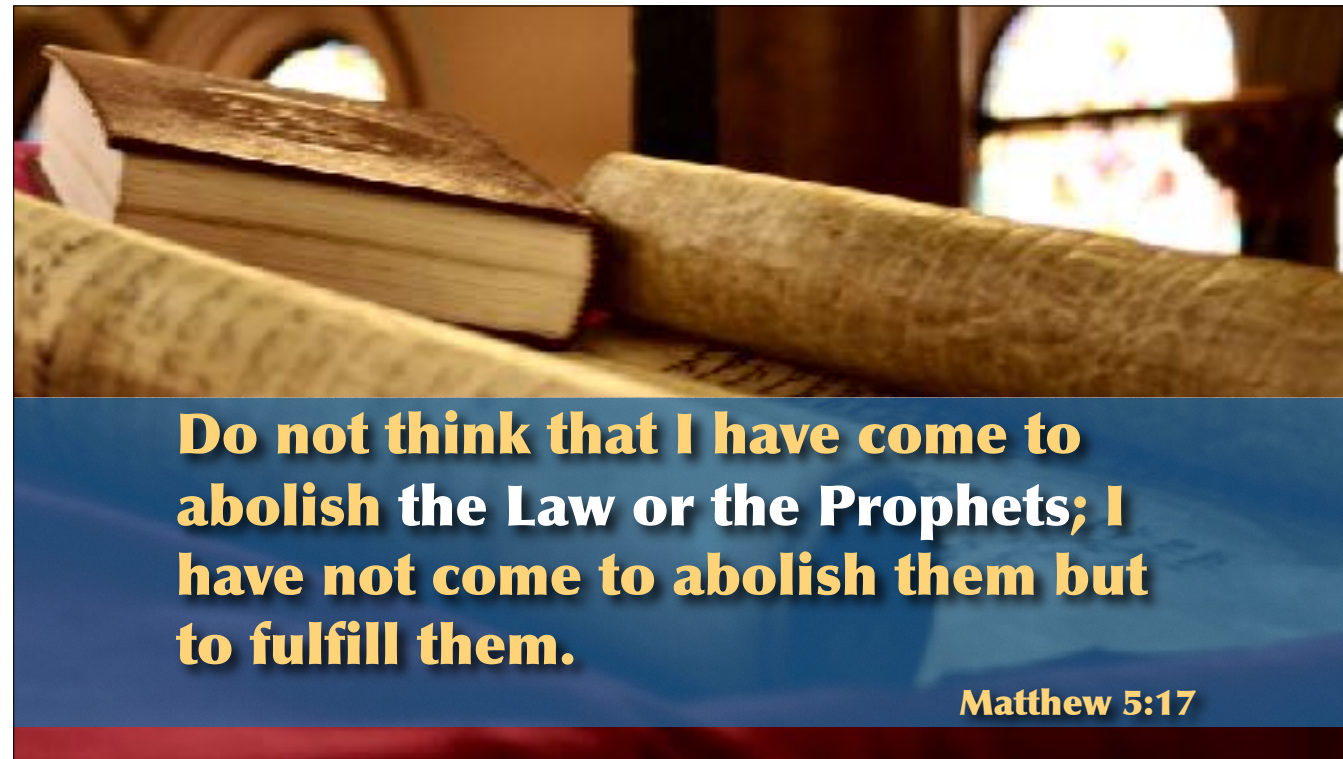




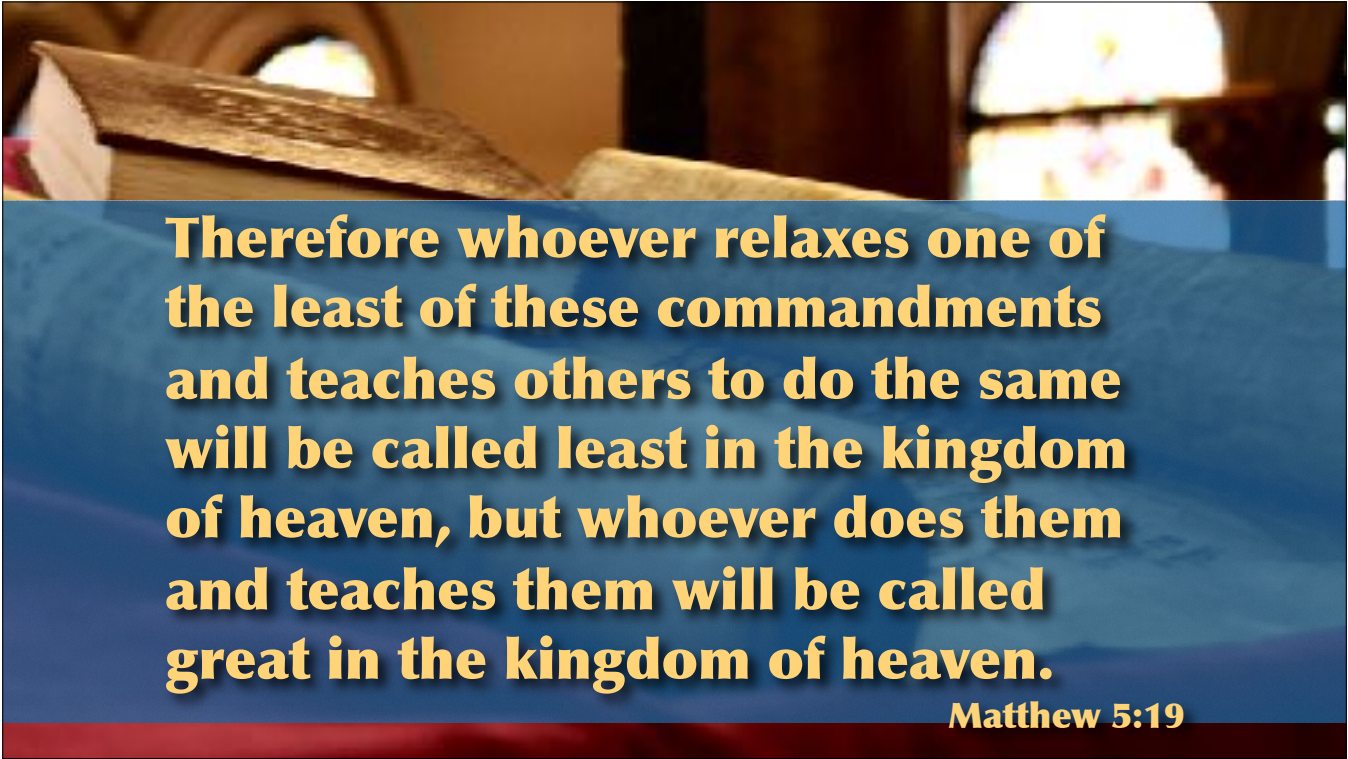
- Righteousness in God's Kingdom
- At hand...



**Do not think that I have come to  
abolish the Law or the Prophets; I  
have not come to abolish them but  
to fulfill them.**

**Matthew 5:17**

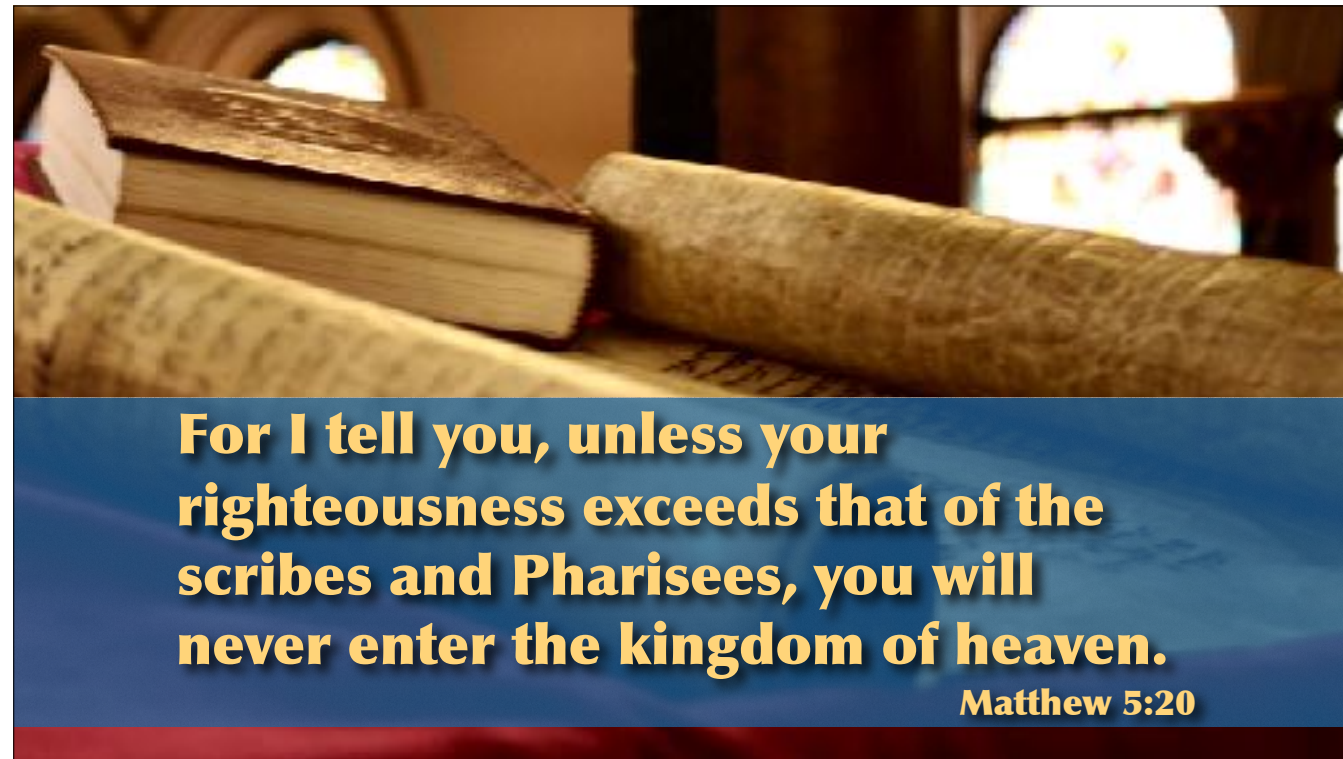
- Matthew 5:17: Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I have not come to abolish them but to fulfill them.
-

A close-up photograph of an open book, likely a Bible, with its pages visible. The image is partially obscured by a semi-transparent blue rectangular overlay that contains text. The text is written in a bold, yellow, sans-serif font. The background of the image shows the book's pages and some blurred light sources in the distance.

**Therefore whoever relaxes one of the least of these commandments and teaches others to do the same will be called least in the kingdom of heaven, but whoever does them and teaches them will be called great in the kingdom of heaven.**

**Matthew 5:19**

- Matthew 5:19 Therefore whoever relaxes one of the least of these commandments and teaches others to do the same will be called least in the kingdom of heaven, but whoever does them and teaches them will be called great in the kingdom of heaven.

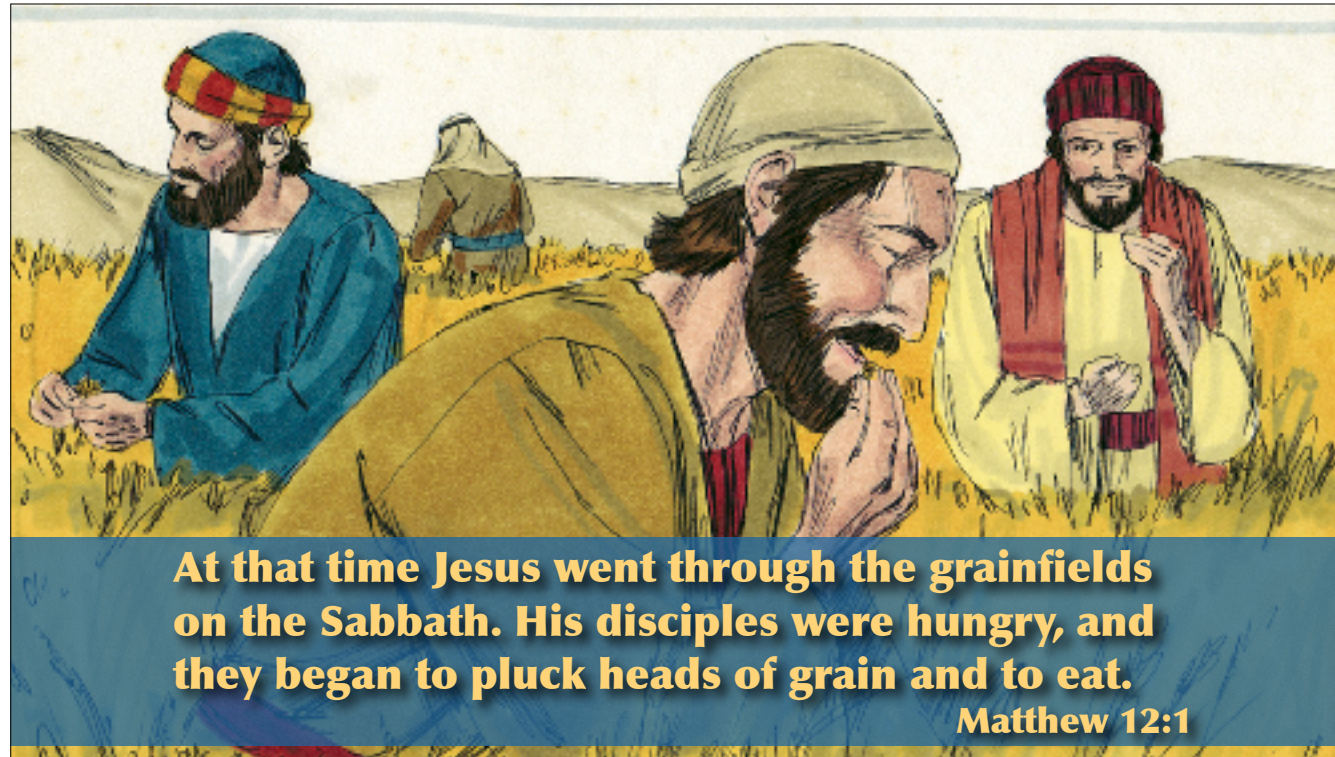


**For I tell you, unless your  
righteousness exceeds that of the  
scribes and Pharisees, you will  
never enter the kingdom of heaven.**

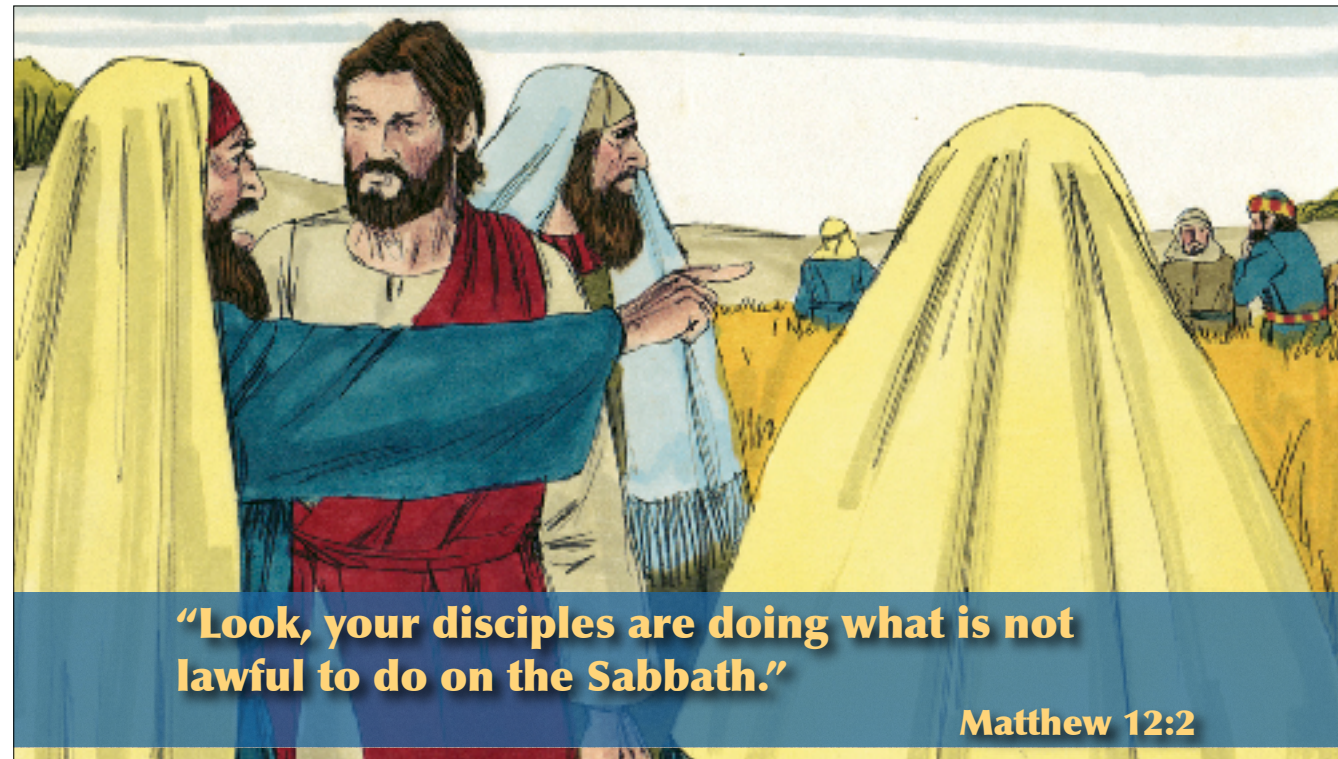
**Matthew 5:20**

- Matthew 5:20 For I tell you, unless your righteousness exceeds that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven.
-



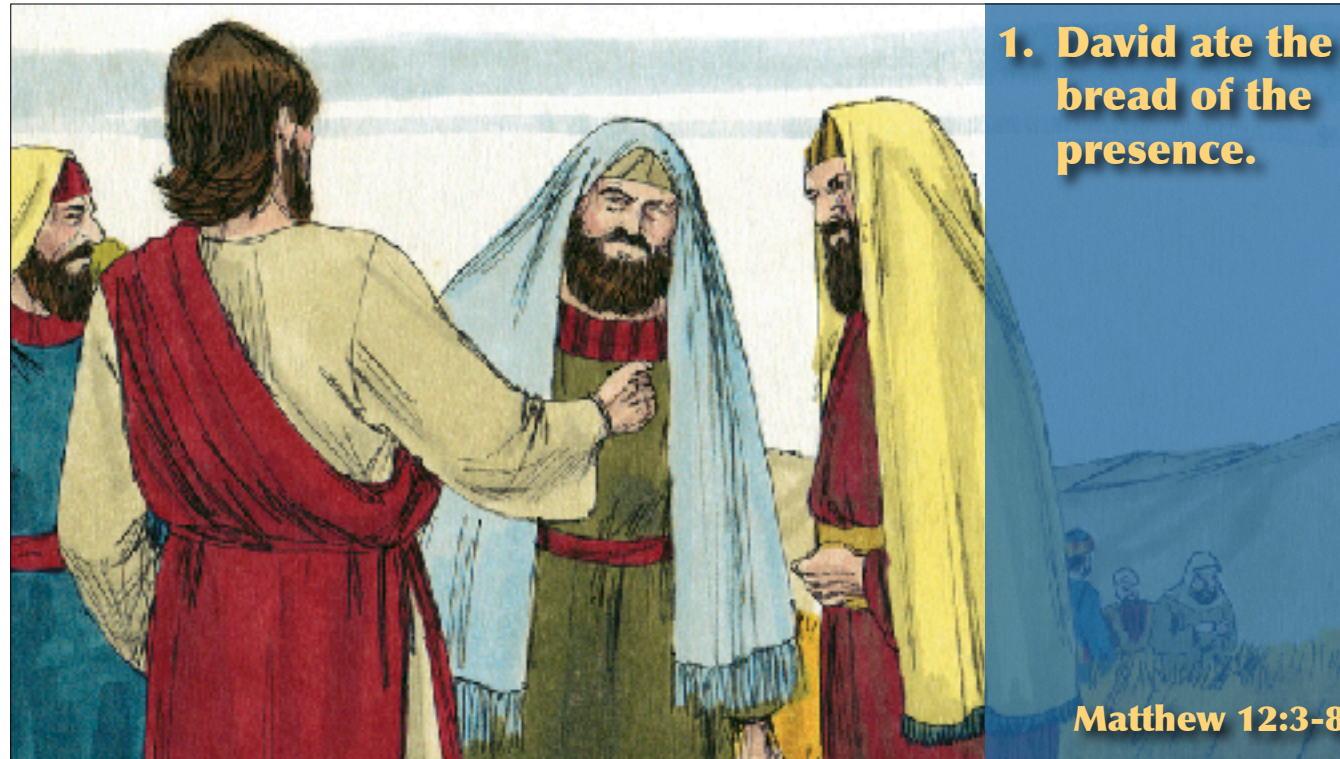


- Matthew 12:1 At that time Jesus went through the grainfields on the Sabbath. His disciples were hungry, and they began to pluck heads of grain and to eat.
- Sabbath, day of rest (our Saturday)
  - Carefully defined by God: no work; including no reaping.
  - More restrictions defined by the Pharisees
    - very strict: no plucking grain (same as reaping)

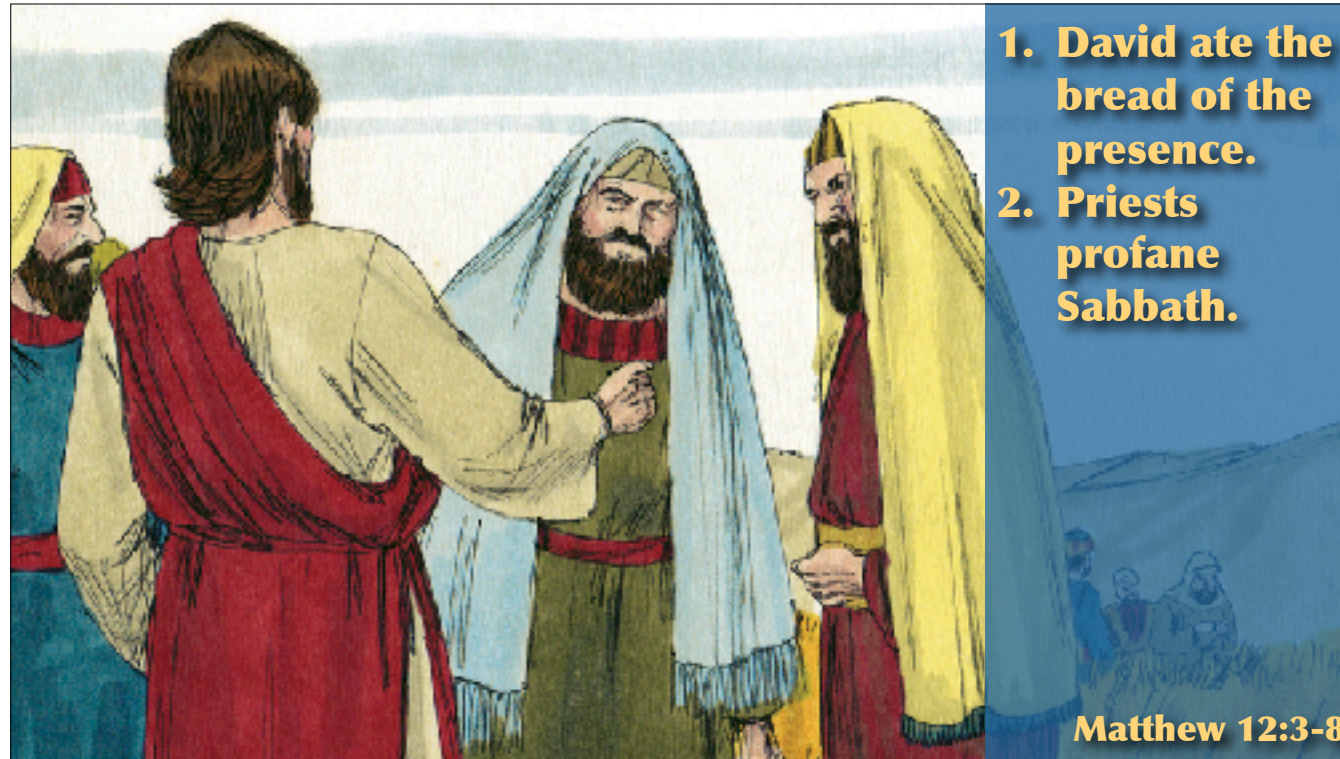


- 2 But when the Pharisees saw it, they said to him, “Look, your disciples are doing what is not lawful to do on the Sabbath.”
- As often, this is a test of Jesus
  - Is Jesus righteous?
    - Based on our definition of righteousness (of course)
    - If he does not meet our standard, he cannot come from God, nor should we listen to his teaching.



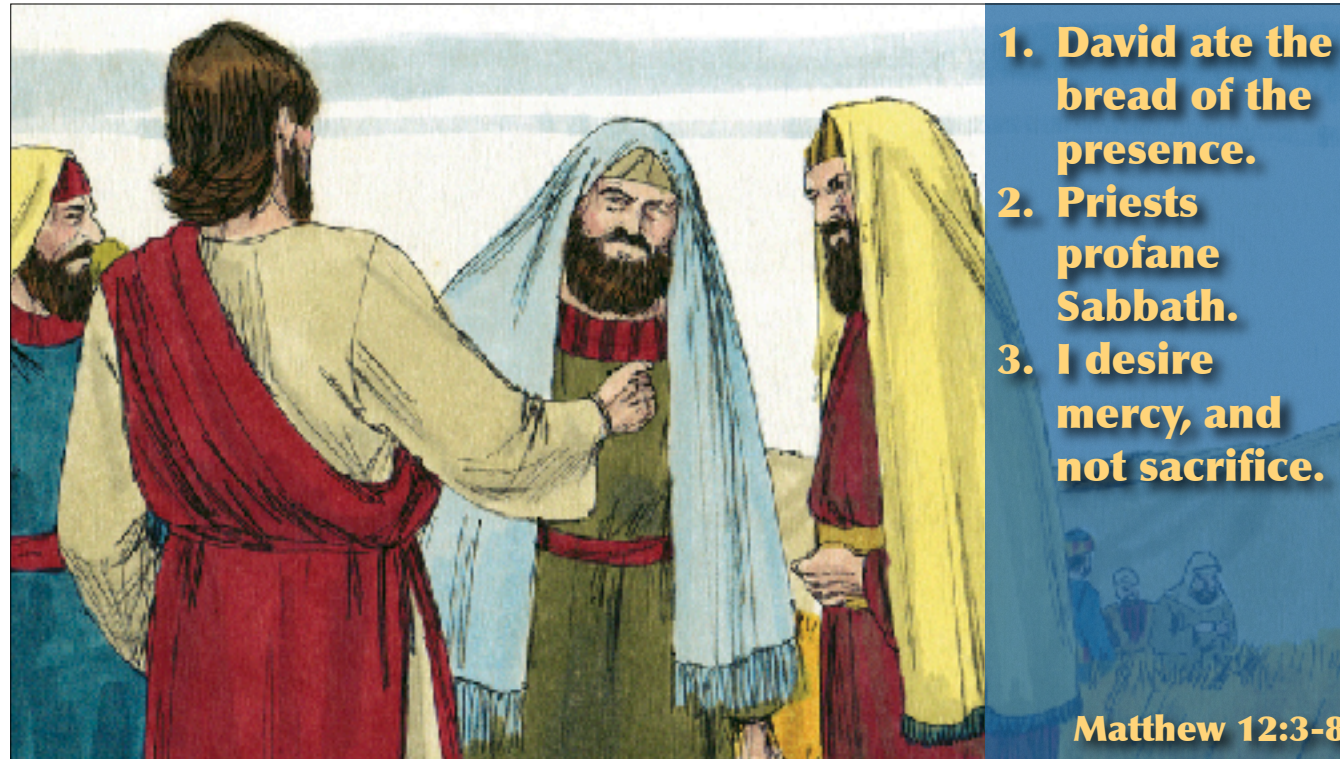


- Matthew 12:3-8: 3 He said to them, "Have you not read what David did when he was hungry, and those who were with him: 4 how he entered the house of God and ate the bread of the Presence, which it was **not lawful for him to eat** nor for those who were with him, but only for the priests?"

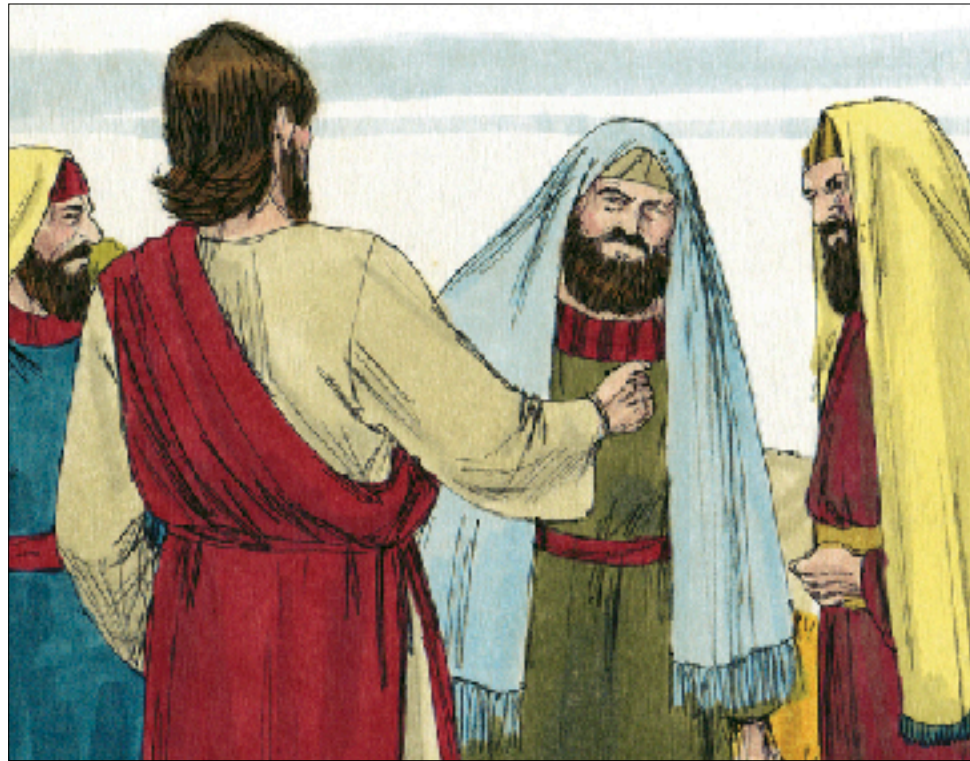


- 5 Or have you not read in the Law how on the Sabbath the priests in the temple **profane the Sabbath** and are guiltless?





- 7 And if you had known what this means, 'I desire mercy, and not sacrifice,' you would not have condemned the **guiltless**.

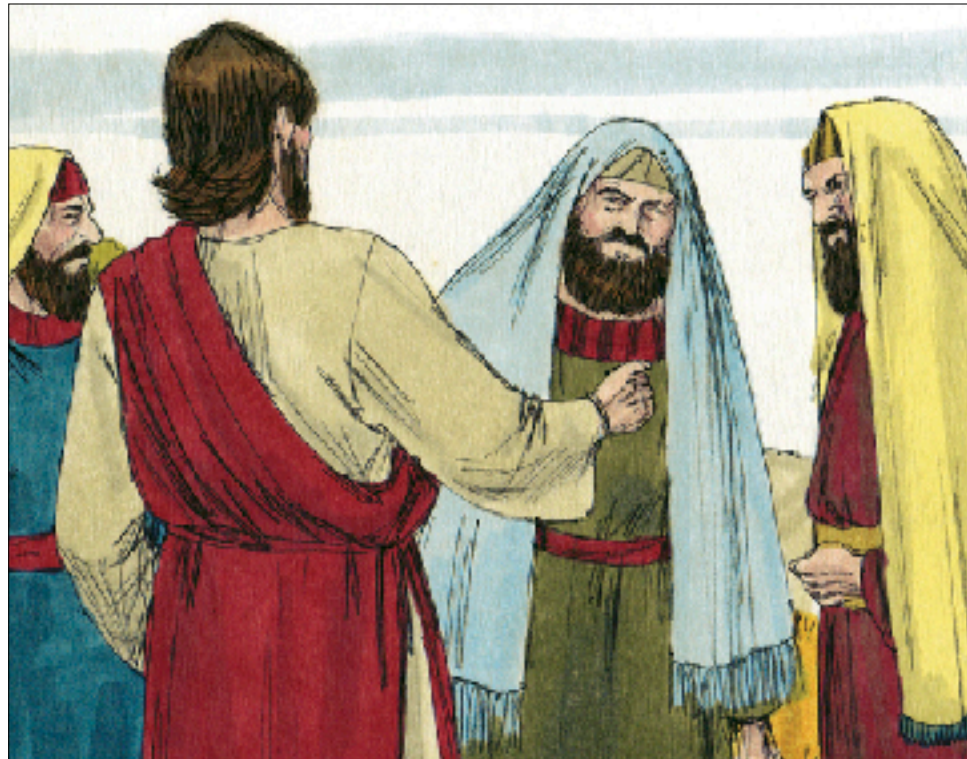


- 1. David ate the bread of the presence.**
- 2. Priests profane Sabbath.**
- 3. I desire mercy, and not sacrifice.**
- 4. Son of man is the lord of the Sabbath**

**Matthew 12:3-8**

- 6 I tell you, something greater than the temple is here.
- 8 For the Son of Man is lord of the Sabbath.”



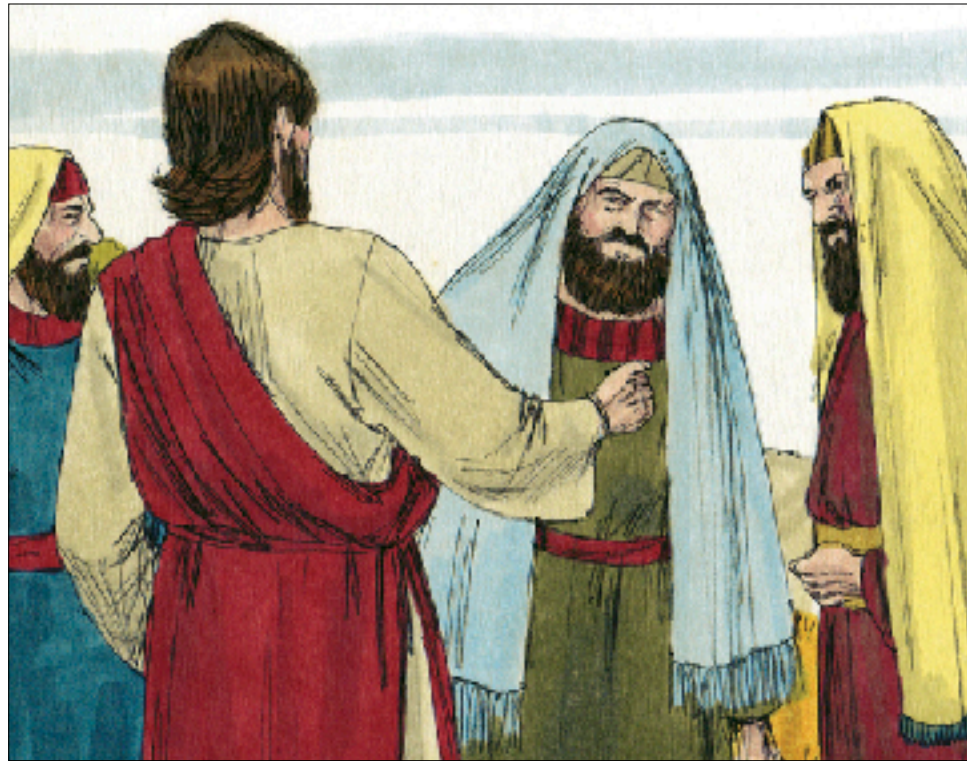


- 1. David ate the bread of the presence.**
- 2. Priests profane Sabbath.**
- 3. I desire mercy, and not sacrifice.**
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**Matthew 12:3-8**

- Is Jesus implying that it's okay to break the Law?
  - I don't think so, because all the law is given for a reason
- Jesus is helping us to understand that the Law is not God.
  - Nor is the Pharisee's interpretation of the law, the Law.





- 1. David ate the bread of the presence.**
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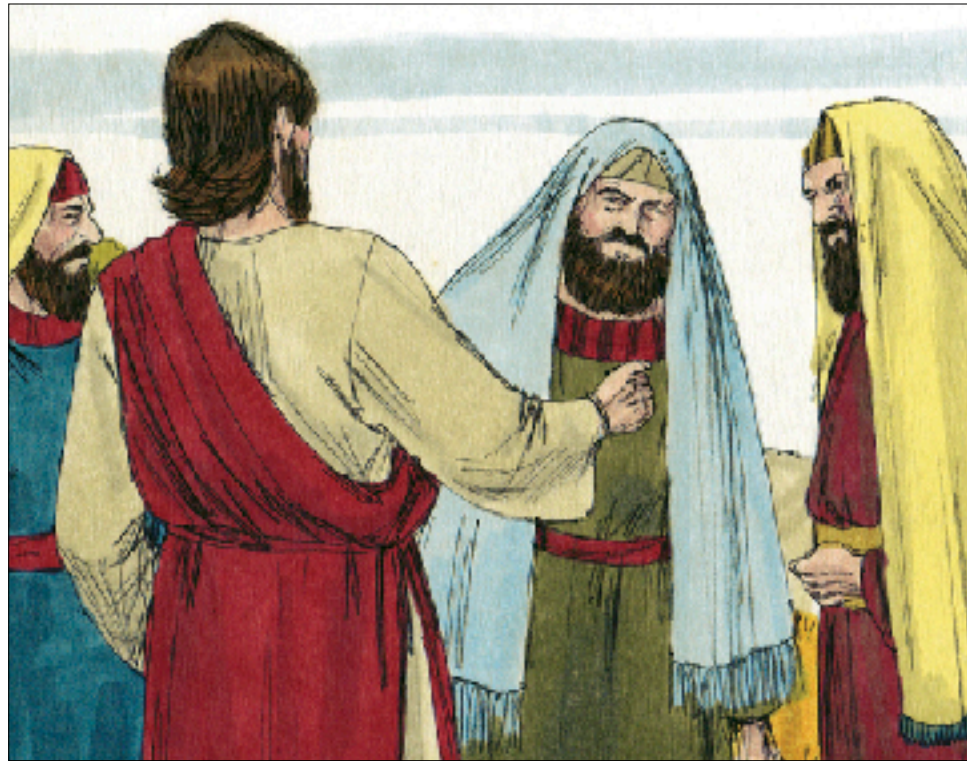
**Matthew 12:3-8**

- He does make it clear that God desires MERCY toward our fellow man
  - What a contrast to the harsh judgment of the Pharisees!
  - Jesus used two examples that answer precisely this situation: hunger and the Sabbath



- Abiathar showed mercy to David giving him the bread because he and his men were hungry!
- God shows the priests mercy for profaning the Sabbath (sacrificing animals is hard work) because of the importance of what they are doing.





- 1. David ate the bread of the presence.**
- 2. Priests profane Sabbath.**
- 3. I desire mercy, and not sacrifice.**
- 4. Son of man is the lord of the Sabbath**

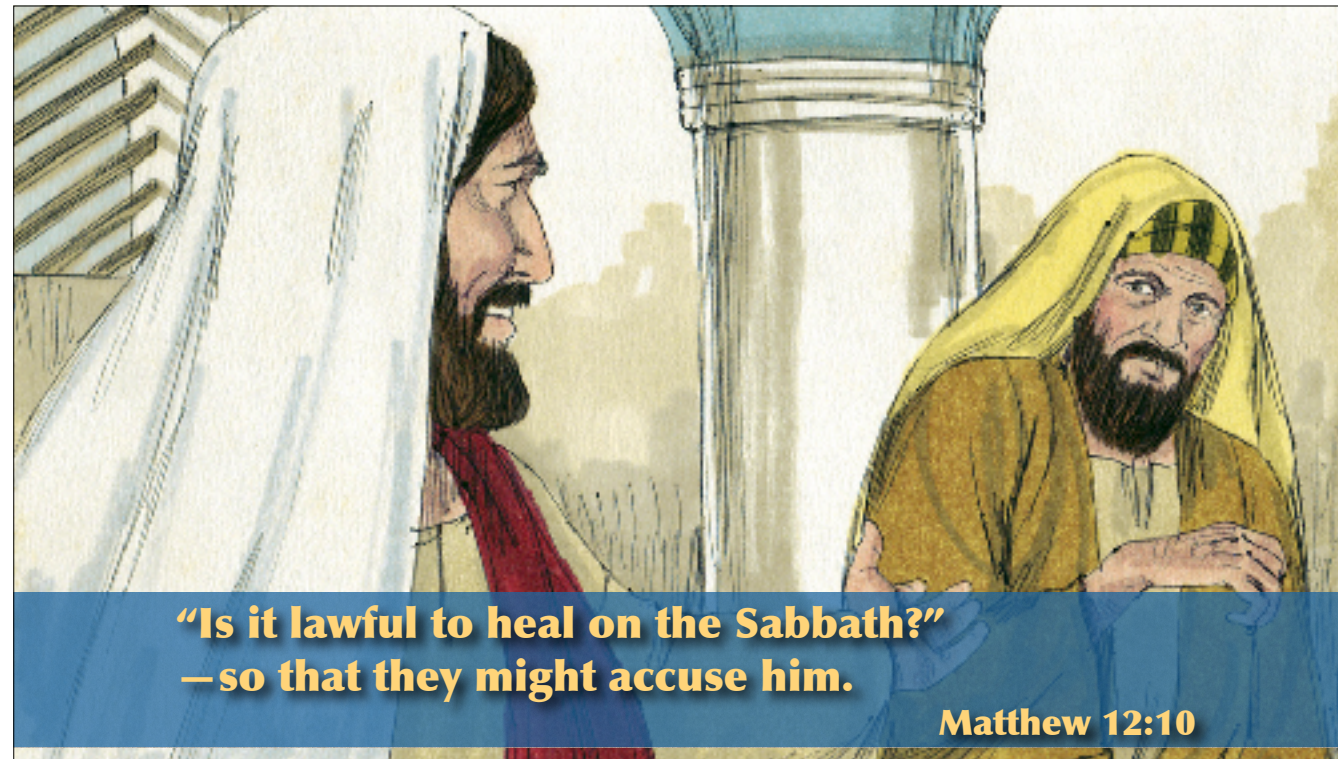
**Matthew 12:3-8**

- Jesus is telling the Pharisees that
  - the disciples are guiltless, not reaping, not breaking Sabbath Law
  - even so, the Pharisees should have been merciful
  - the disciples were hungry... so let them eat.



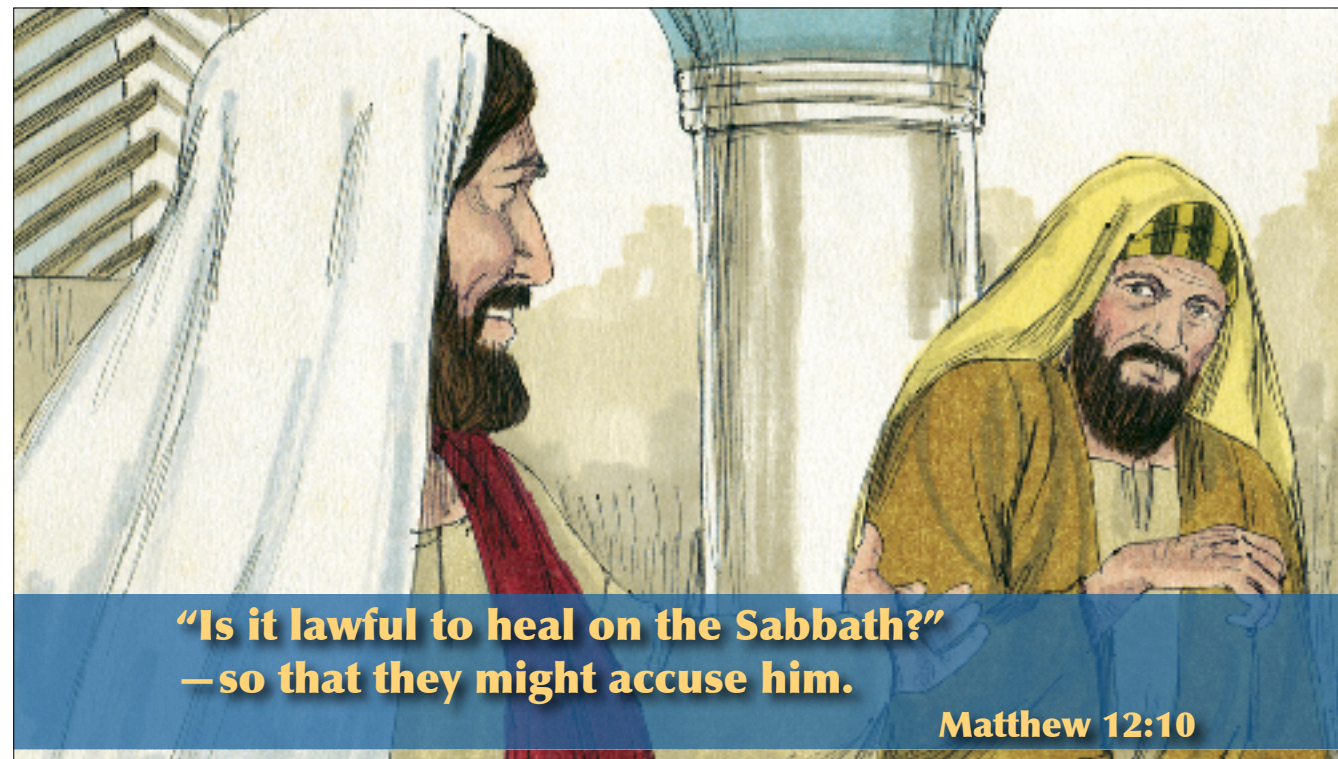


- Love your neighbor as yourself
  - Leviticus 19:18 You shall not take vengeance or bear a grudge against the sons of your own people, but you shall love your neighbor as yourself: I am the Lord.
- Matthew immediately jumps to another example of what happened on the Sabbath.



- 9 He went on from there and entered their synagogue. 10 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.
- Healing was considered work by the Pharisees - and so unlawful.
  - Healing is work!
  - Nurse, doctor, caring for the ill requires dedication and effort.



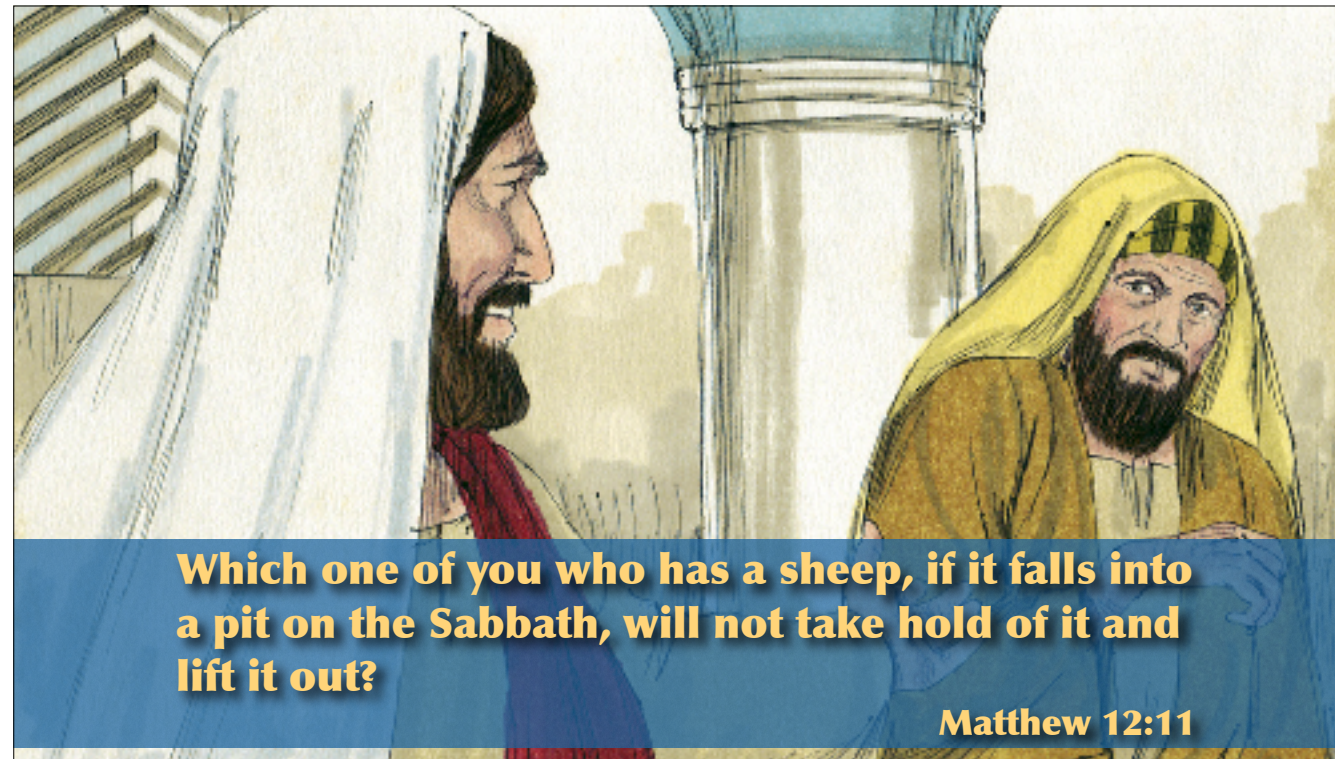


**“Is it lawful to heal on the Sabbath?”  
—so that they might accuse him.**

**Matthew 12:10**

- But Jesus will argue that healing is lawful.
- He uses one illustration... arguing from the lesser to the greater

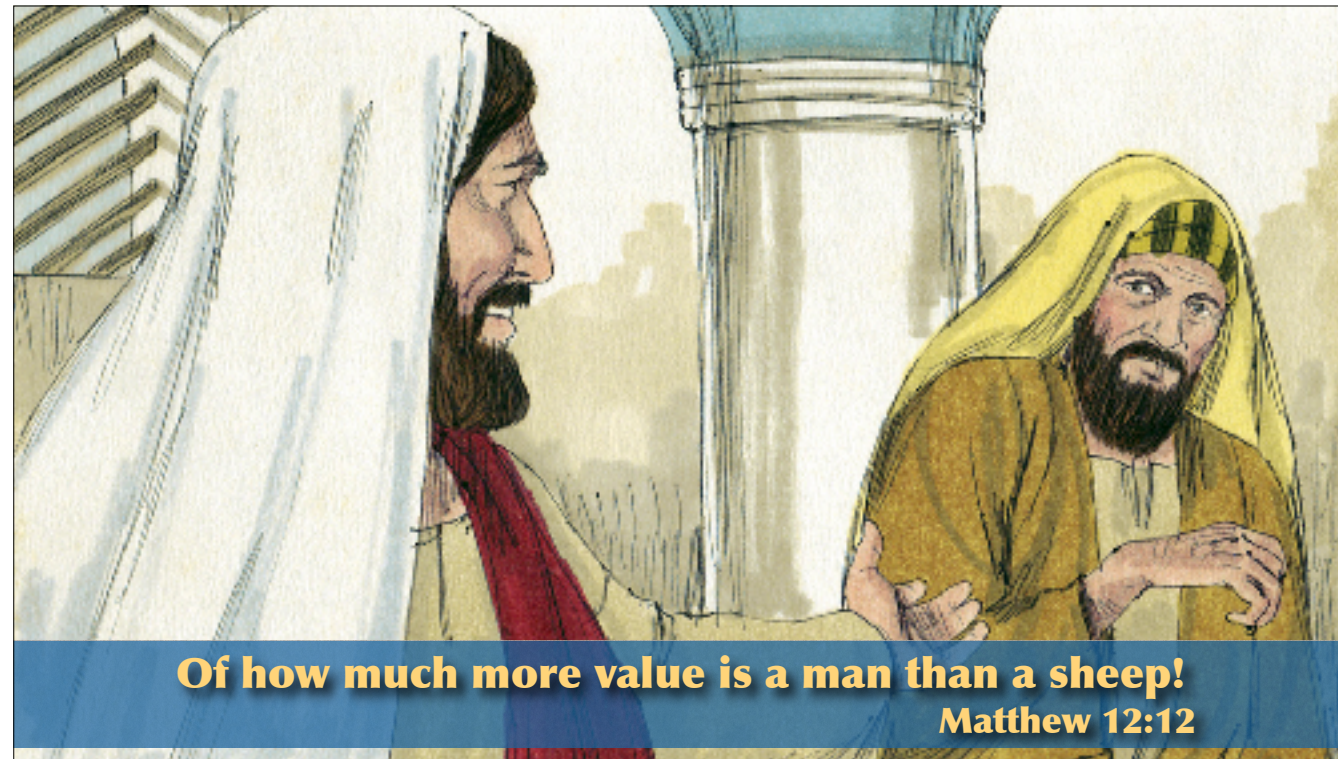




**Which one of you who has a sheep, if it falls into a pit on the Sabbath, will not take hold of it and lift it out?**

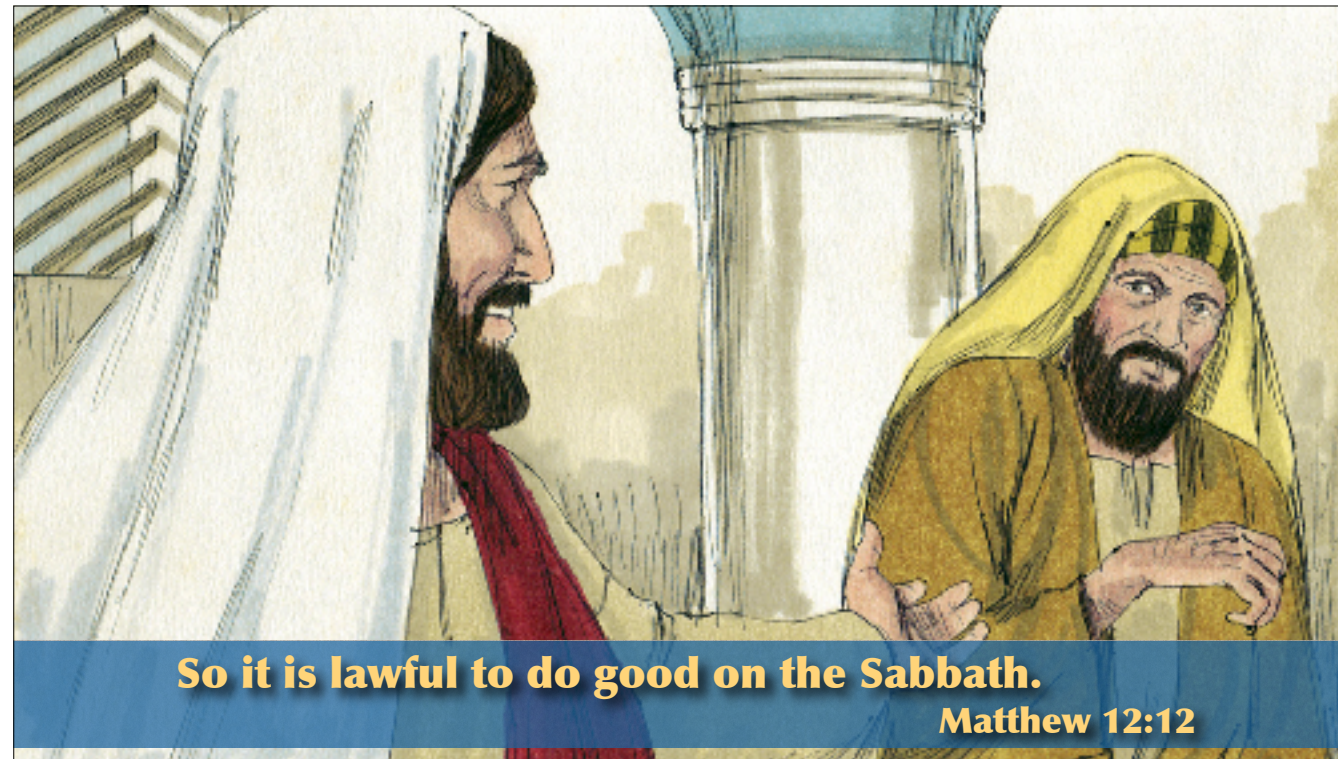
**Matthew 12:11**

- 11 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? 240 lbs
  - Why would they rescue the sheep?
    - compassion
    - value of sheep
      - no one would allow a sheep to die even on the Sabbath
      - Rescue because of the value (if nothing else).



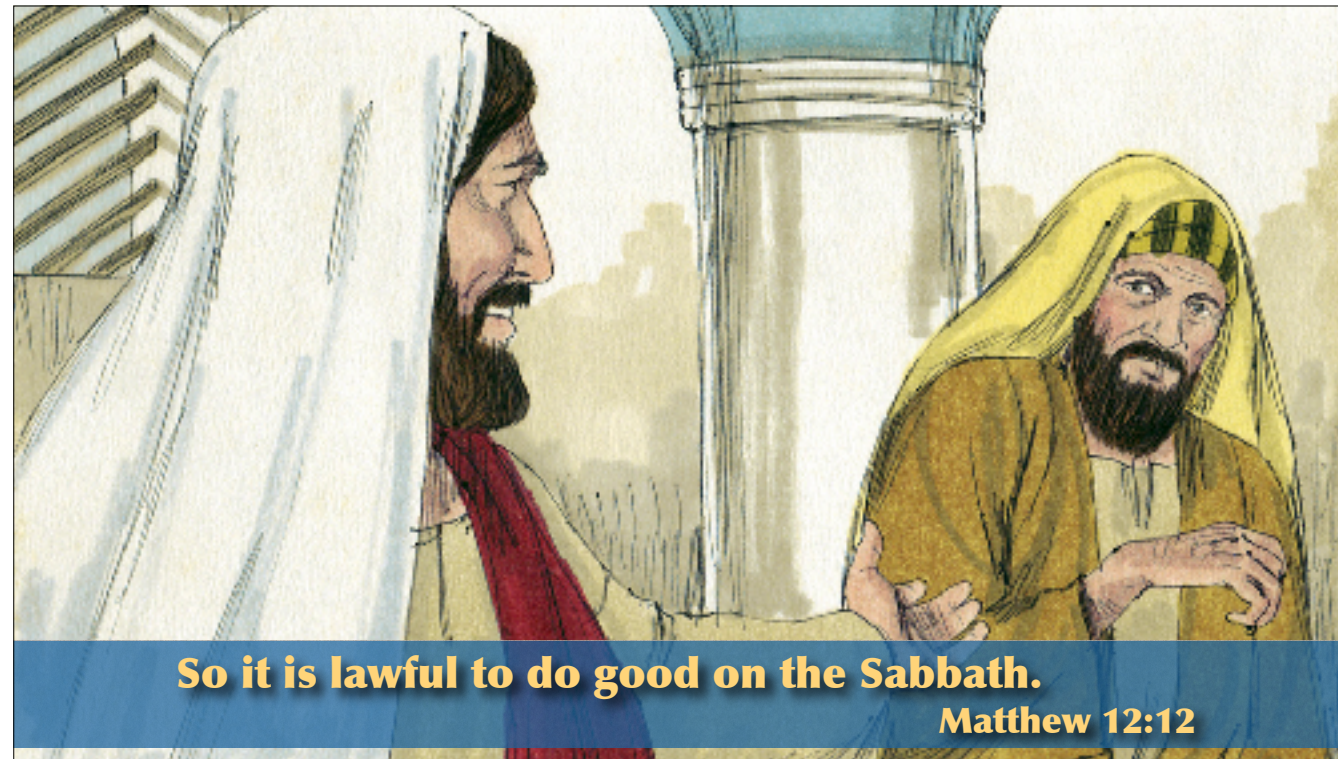
- 12 Of how much more value is a man than a sheep!
  - VALUE
  - Man > Sheep!



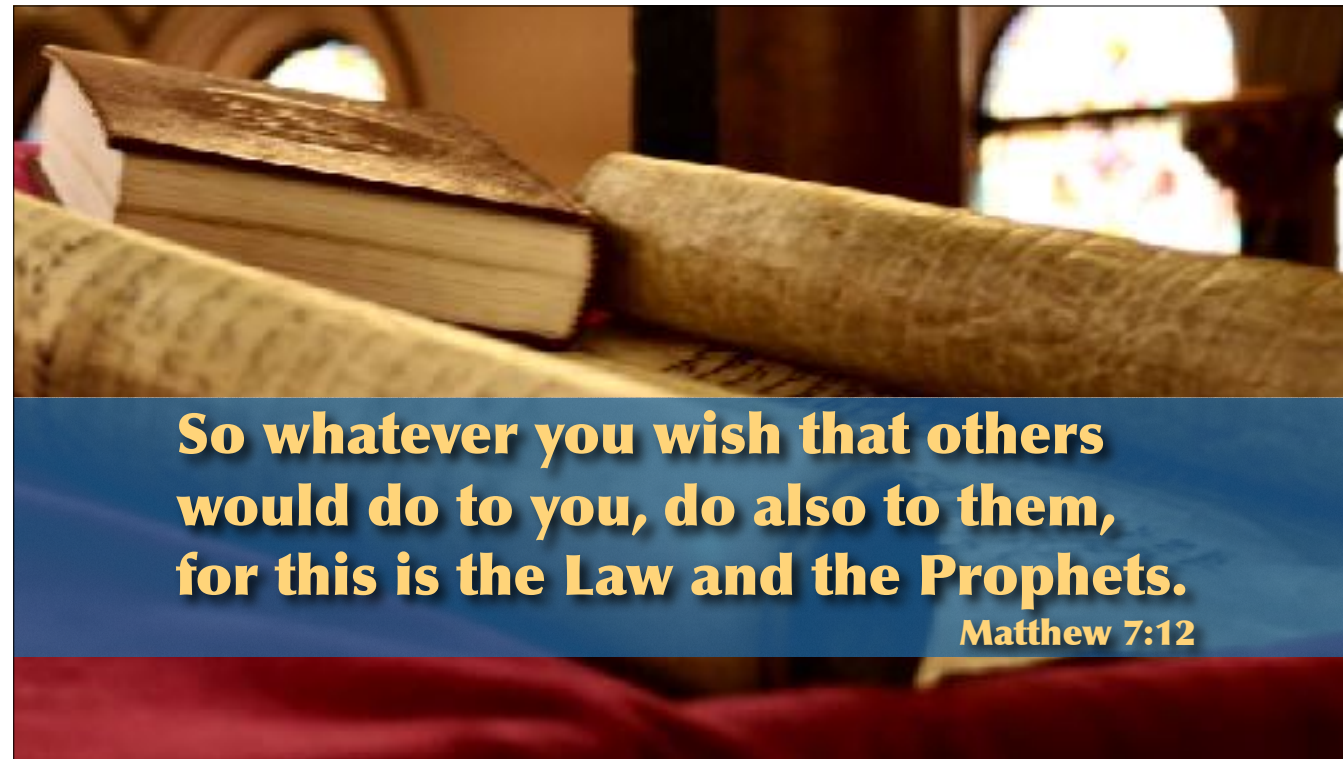


- So it is lawful to **do good** on the Sabbath.
- Mercy and Good...
  - Focus on loving others: doing good to them and being merciful.



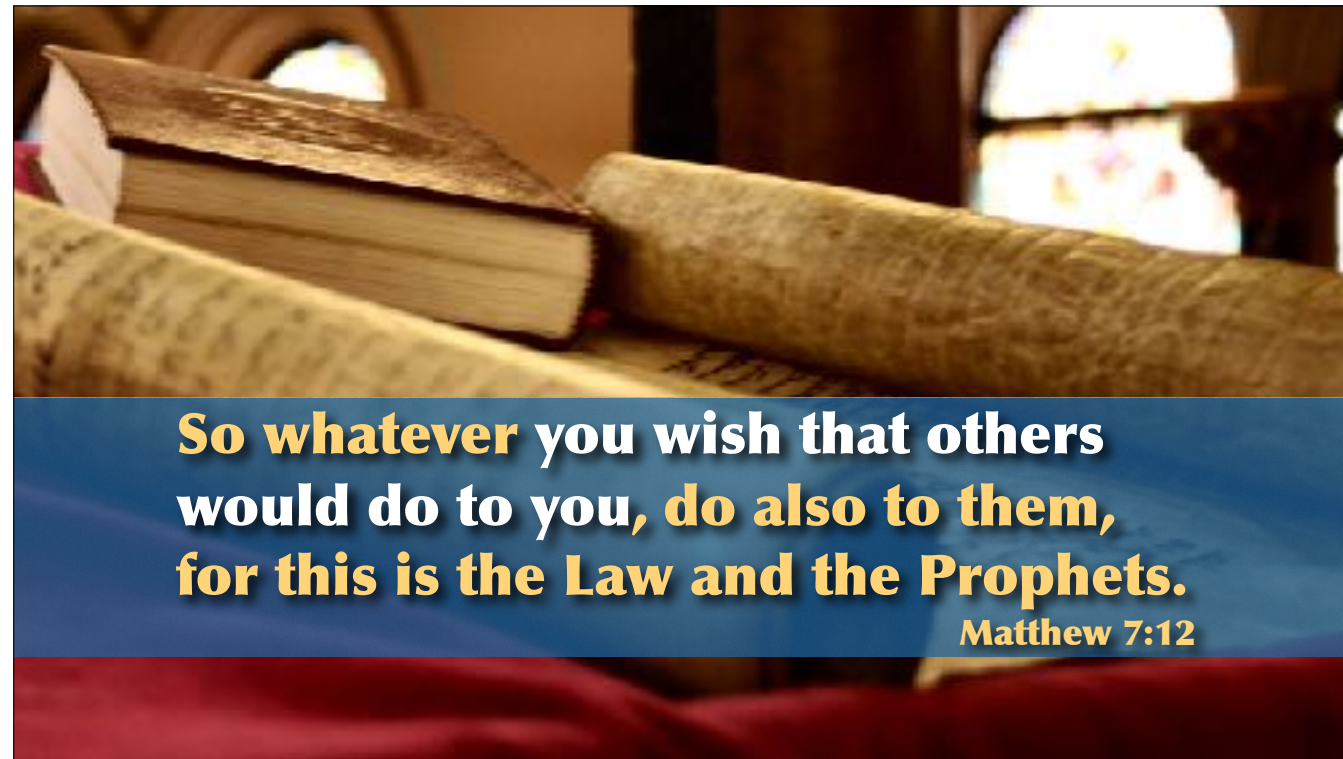


- Consider this from the view point of the disciples and the man with withered hand
  - How would they have wanted to be treated by the Pharisees?
  - Did the Pharisees ever consider how they would like to be treated if they had been hungry or needed to be healed?



**So whatever you wish that others  
would do to you, do also to them,  
for this is the Law and the Prophets.**  
Matthew 7:12

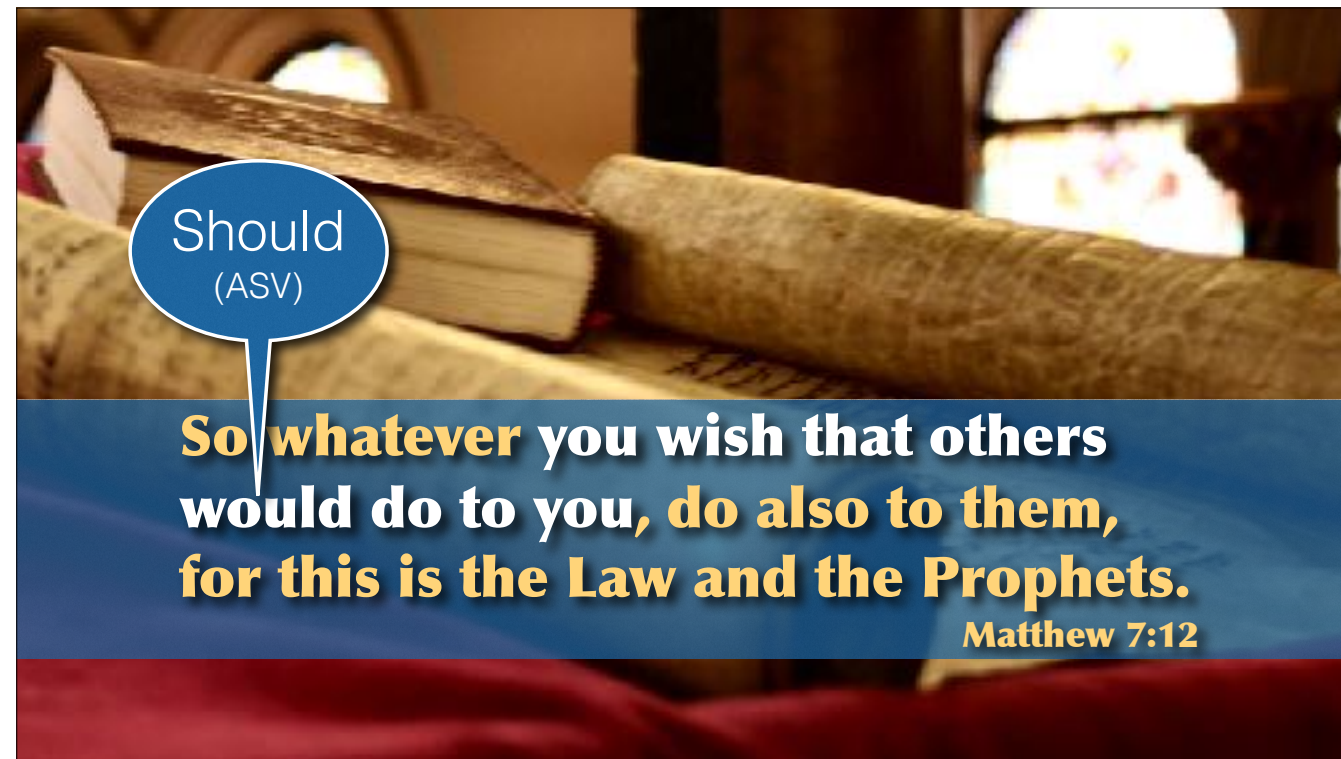
- Matthew 7:12 (ESV) So whatever you wish that others would do to you, do also to them, for this is the Law and the Prophets.



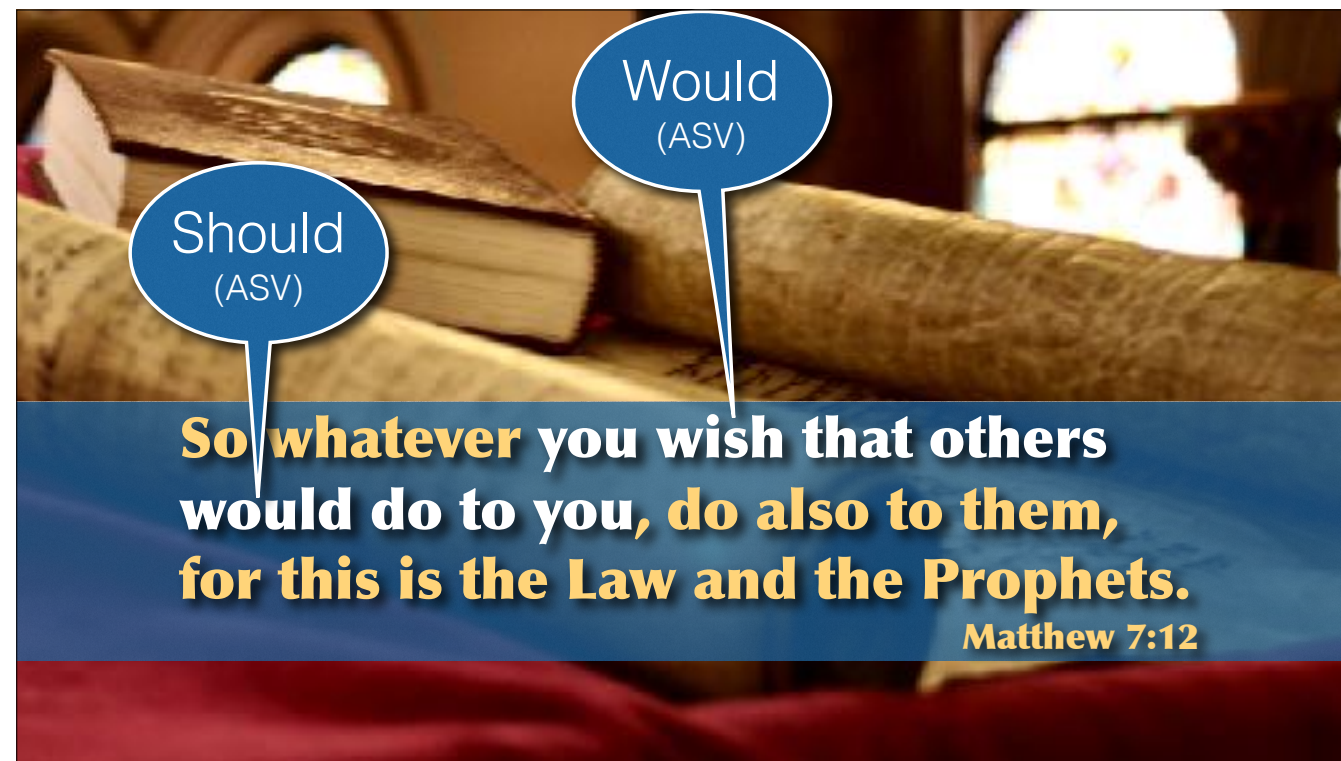
**So whatever you wish that others  
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Matthew 7:12

- Whatever you WISH that others WOULD do to you
  - you **would** that men **should** do to you (ASV)

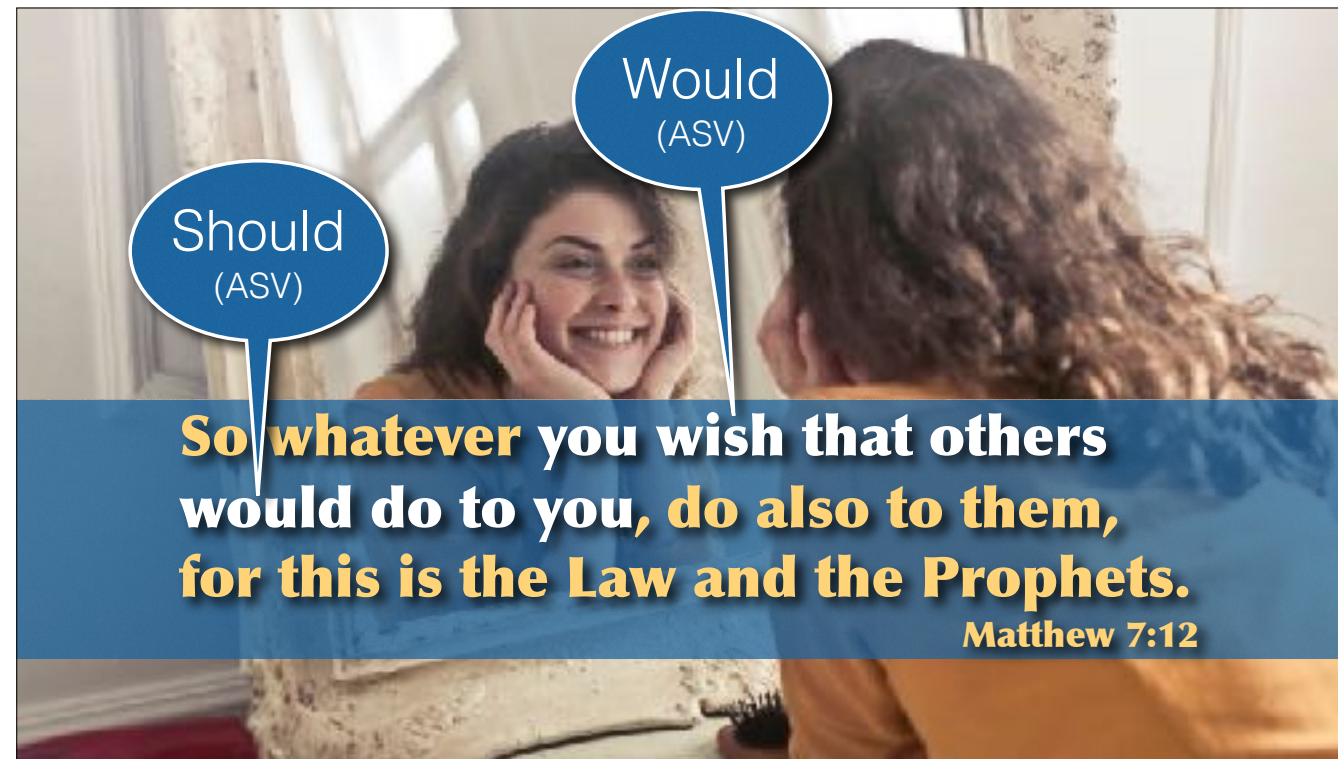




- Should = proper, expected behavior
  - Accepted standards of what is right and wrong
    - Not just society, but God! (Law and Prophets)
  - Not just flights of fancy
    - I'd like everyone to give me \$20.
  - Since beginning God has expected us to live righteously.

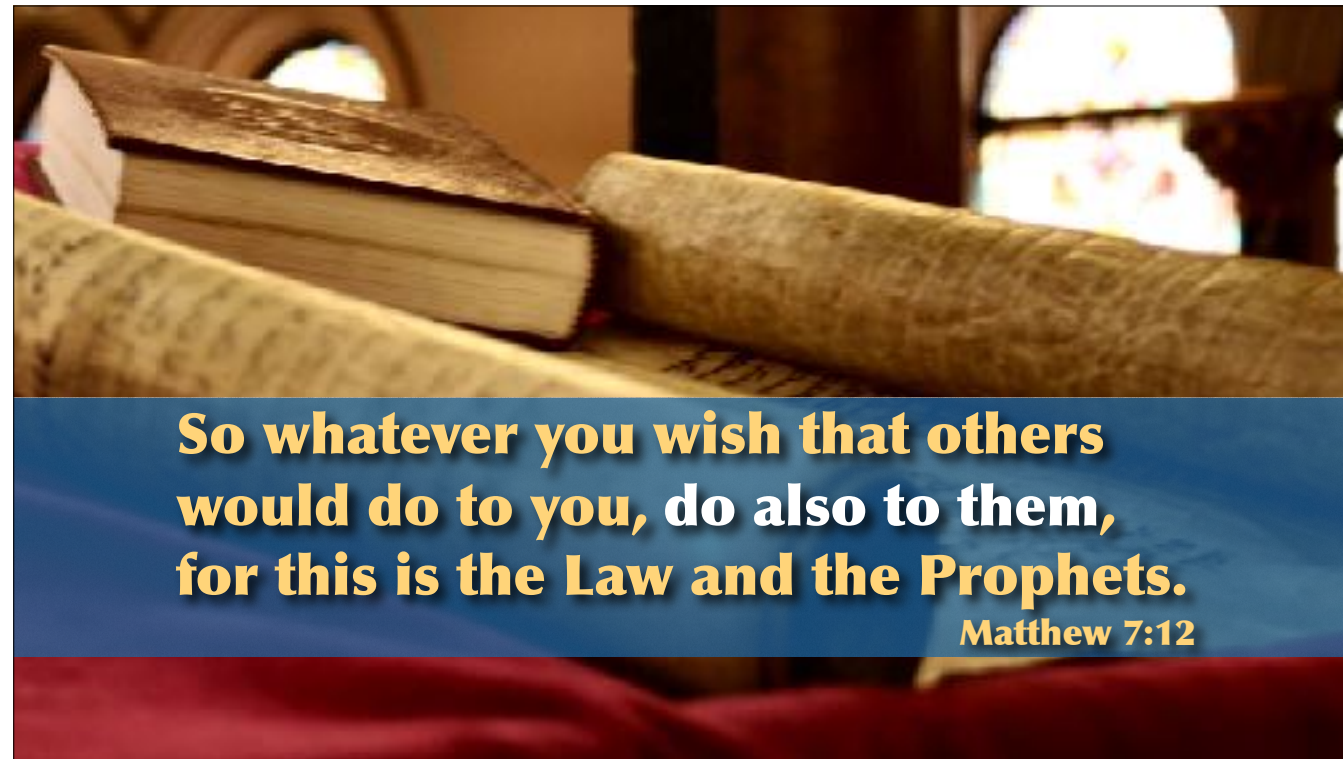


- Would = how I desire to be treated
- What is it that I like and dislike?



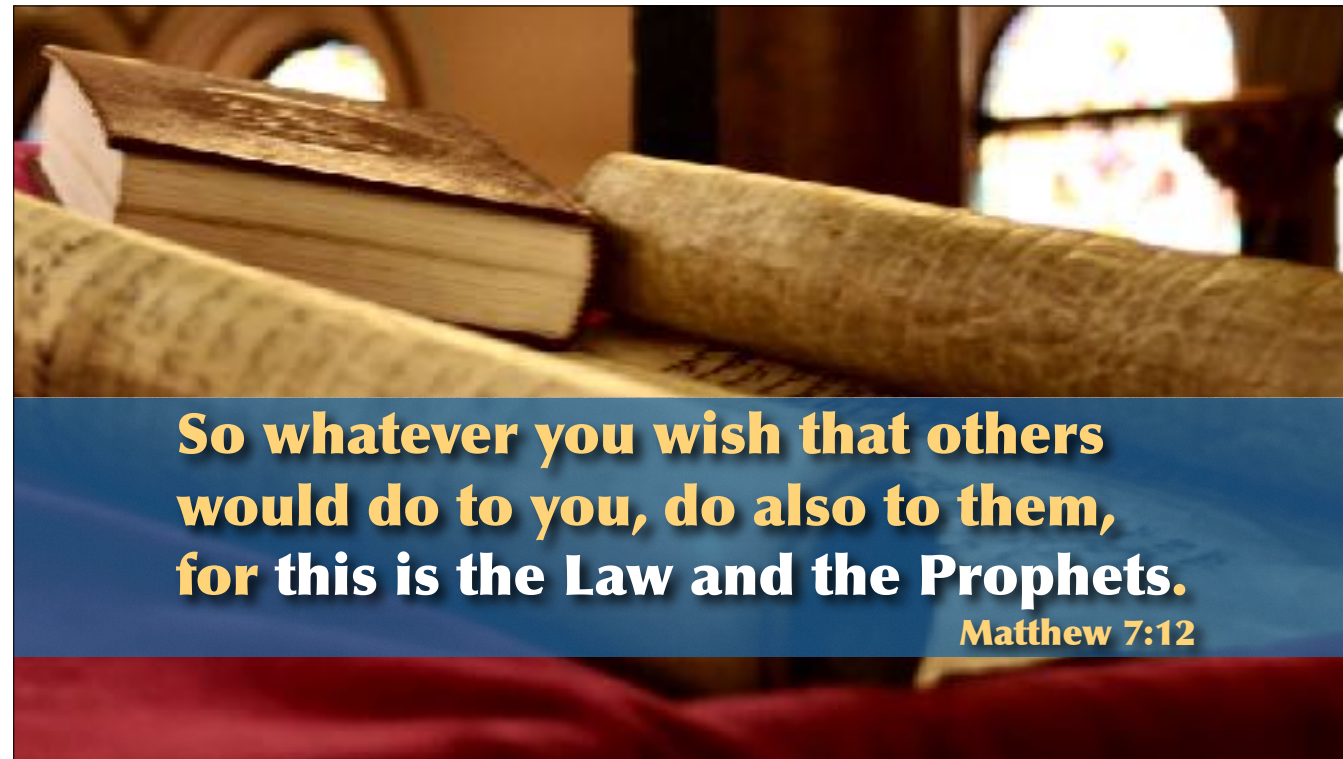
- How do I like to be treated? (Introspection)
  - Make a list, details, clear
  - I don't like others to treat me badly, say bad things to me or about me, I don't like them to think badly of me.
  - I don't like others to ignore me
  - I do like other to think well of me, speak nicely, treat me kindly
- Common standard of behavior



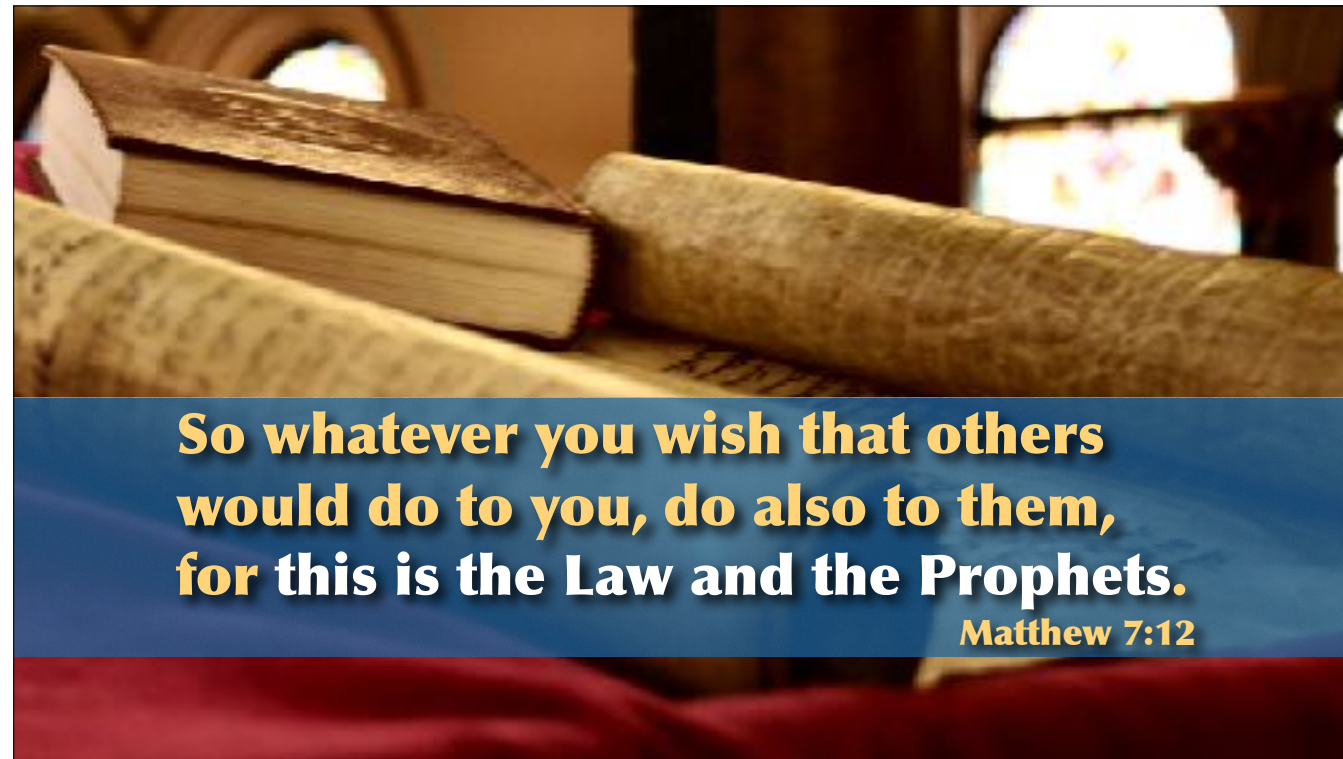


**So whatever you wish that others  
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for this is the Law and the Prophets.**  
Matthew 7:12

- do also to them
  - ASV: even so do you also to them.
  - Others have, generally, the same "wish" to be treated well as I do.
  - I must put myself in their position and see through their eyes
  - Must do all that I like and not do what I don't like.



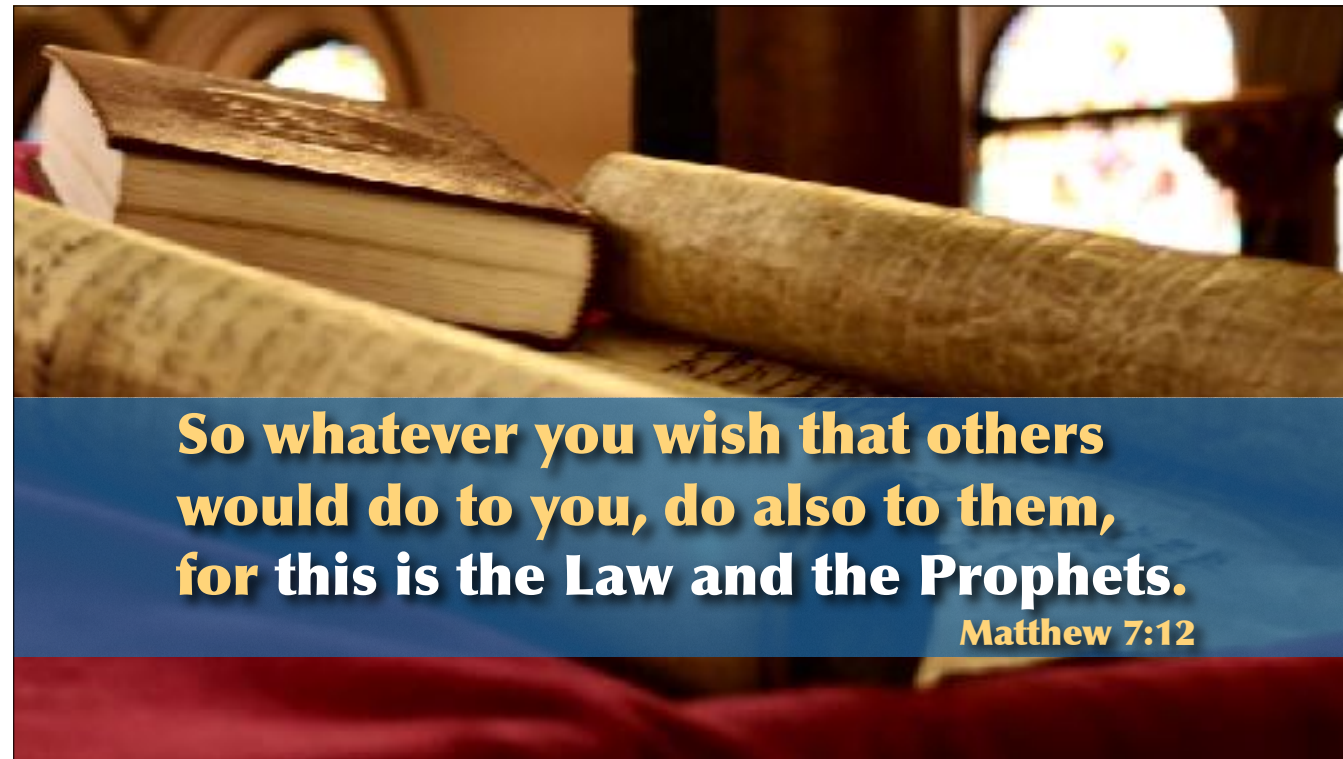
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**So whatever you wish that others  
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**Matthew 7:12**

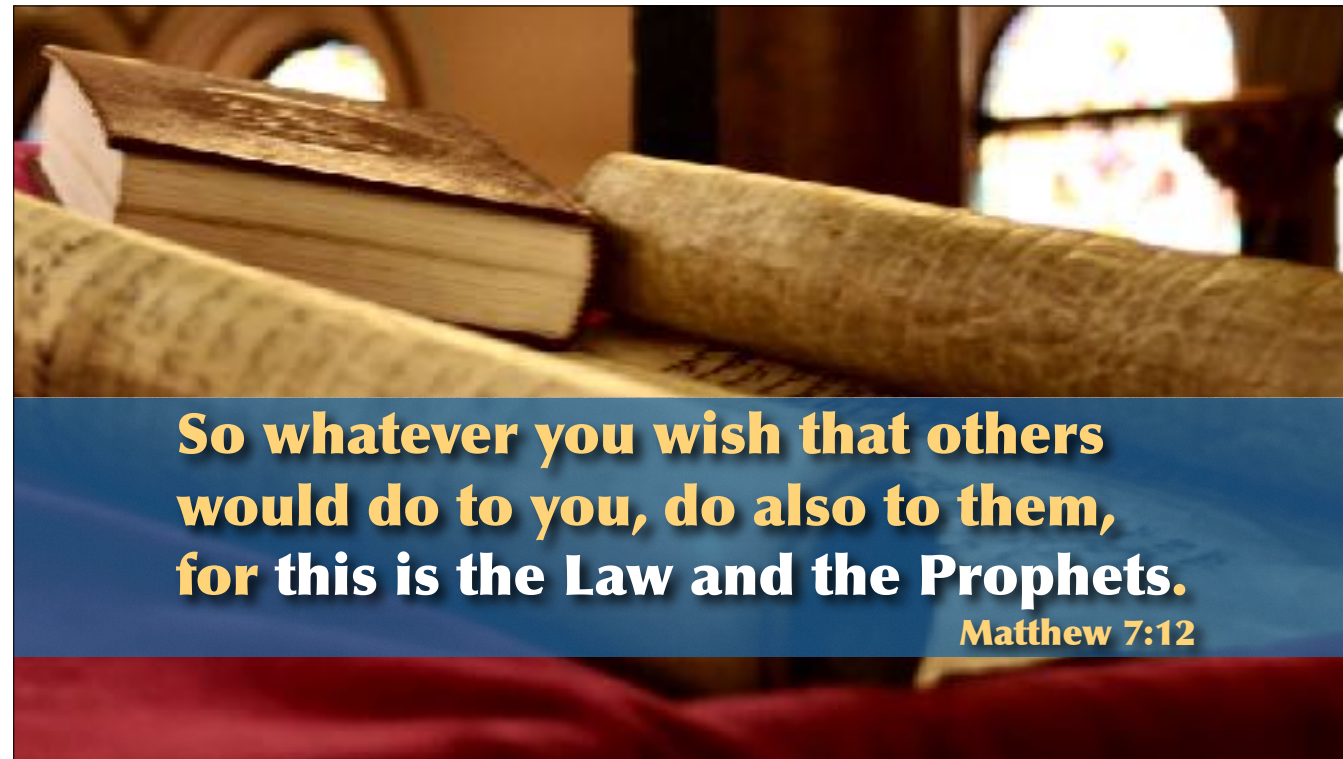
- What did the S&P think that the Law and the Prophets were about?
  - Sabbath!
  - Rules to be kept, and enforced.





**So whatever you wish that others  
would do to you, do also to them,  
for this is the Law and the Prophets.**  
**Matthew 7:12**

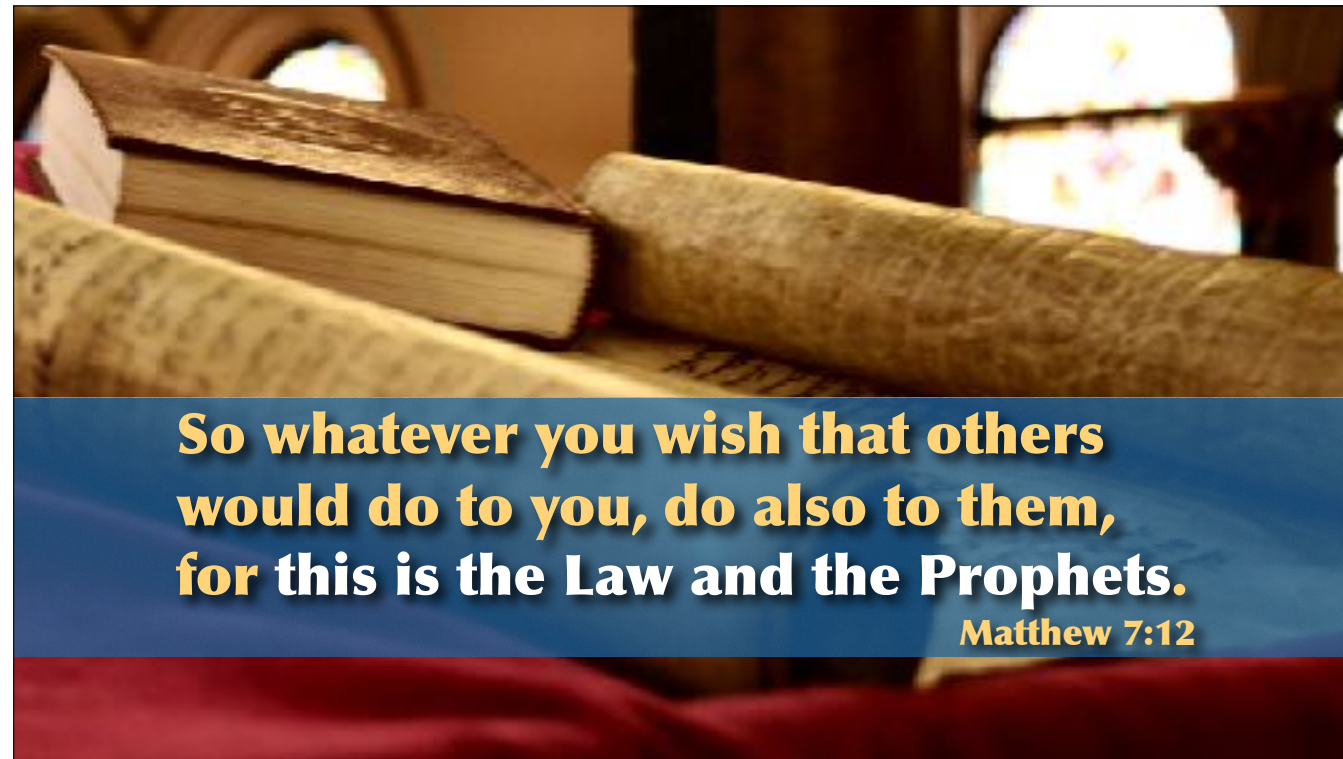
- How was this reflected in their own lives and in their actions toward others?
  - More concerned about compliance than about the individual.
    - They didn't see the law as being about what is good for people.
    - It was just a standard to be enforced, esp. according to their traditions



**So whatever you wish that others  
would do to you, do also to them,  
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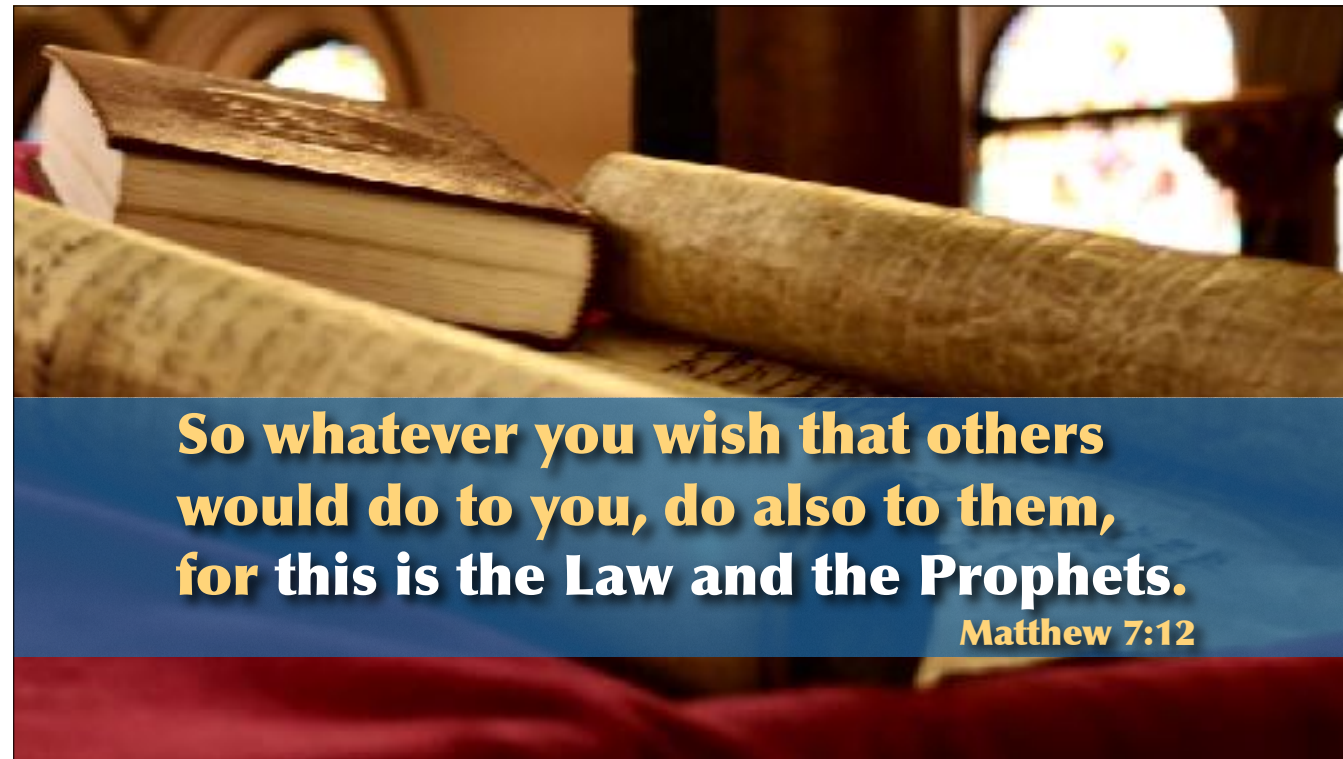
**Matthew 7:12**

- How do we often look at the New Covenant?
  - Ministry of the spirit, righteousness & life!
  - Do we see them merely as rules to be obeyed?
  - Or as helps for understanding God, and how to live righteously before Him?



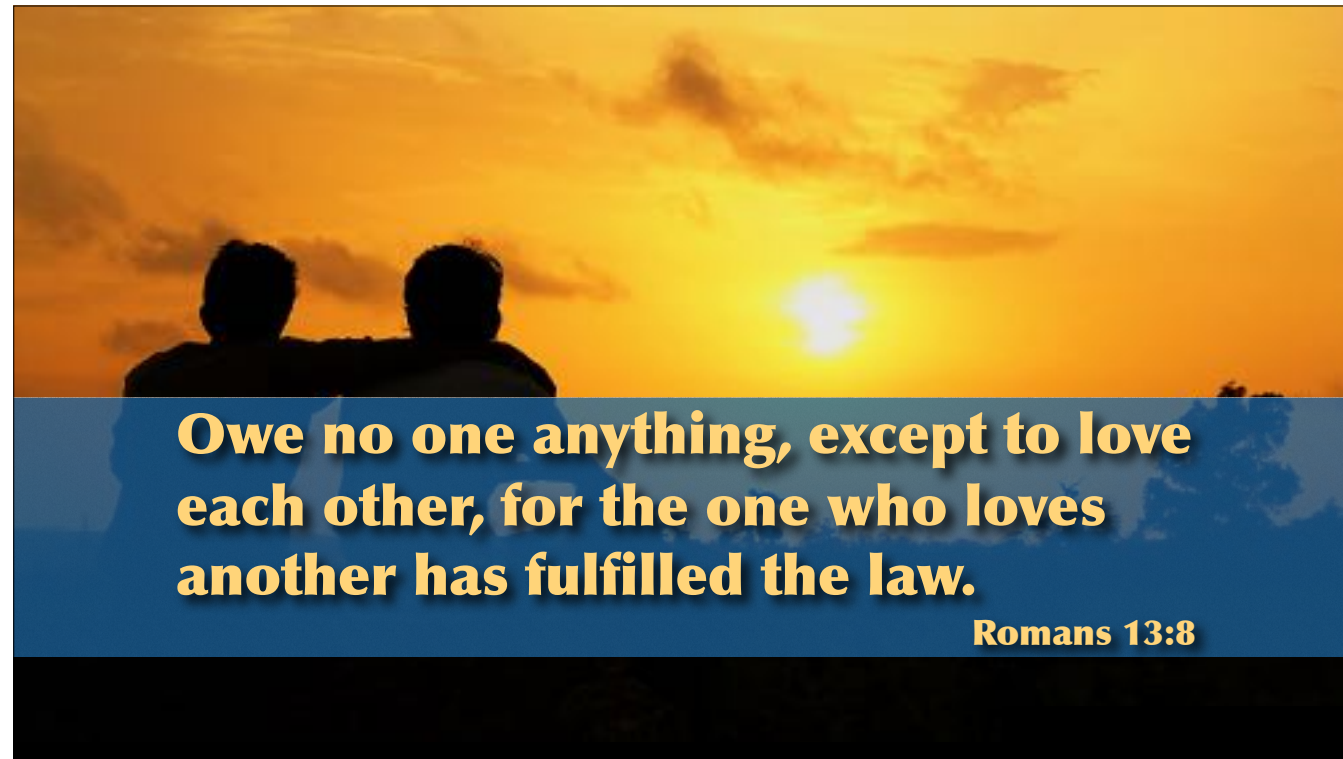
- Matthew 22:34-40: But when the Pharisees heard that he had silenced the Sadducees, they gathered together. And one of them, a lawyer, asked him a question to test him. "Teacher, which is the great commandment in the Law?" And he said to him, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. This is the great and first commandment. And a second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself. On these two commandments depend all the Law and the Prophets."



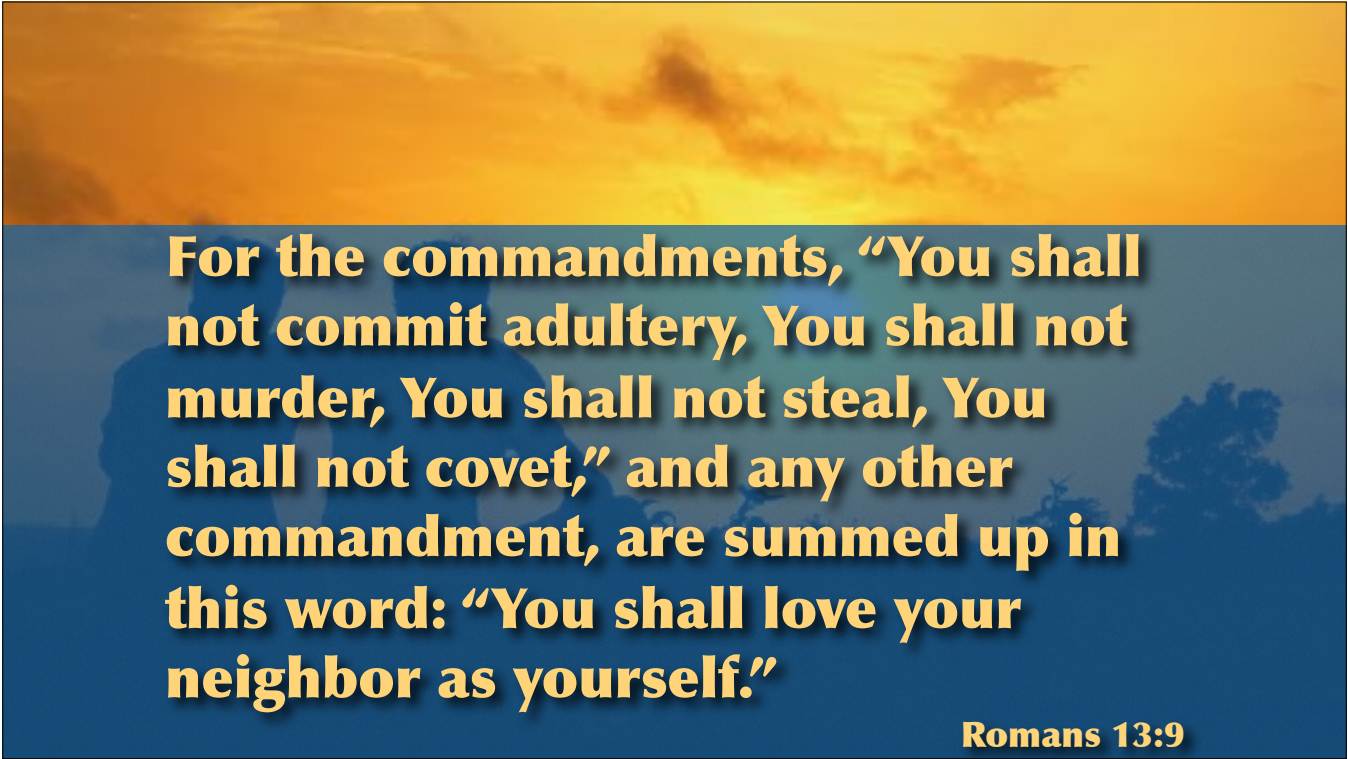


**So whatever you wish that others  
would do to you, do also to them,  
for this is the Law and the Prophets.**  
**Matthew 7:12**

- Law & Prophets: summarized
  - Love God
  - Love Neighbor as yourself
- All the specifics come down to this love
  - not just limiting my behavior
  - or forcing me to do certain things to be saved



- Romans 13:8: Owe no one anything, except to love each other, for the one who loves another has fulfilled the law.

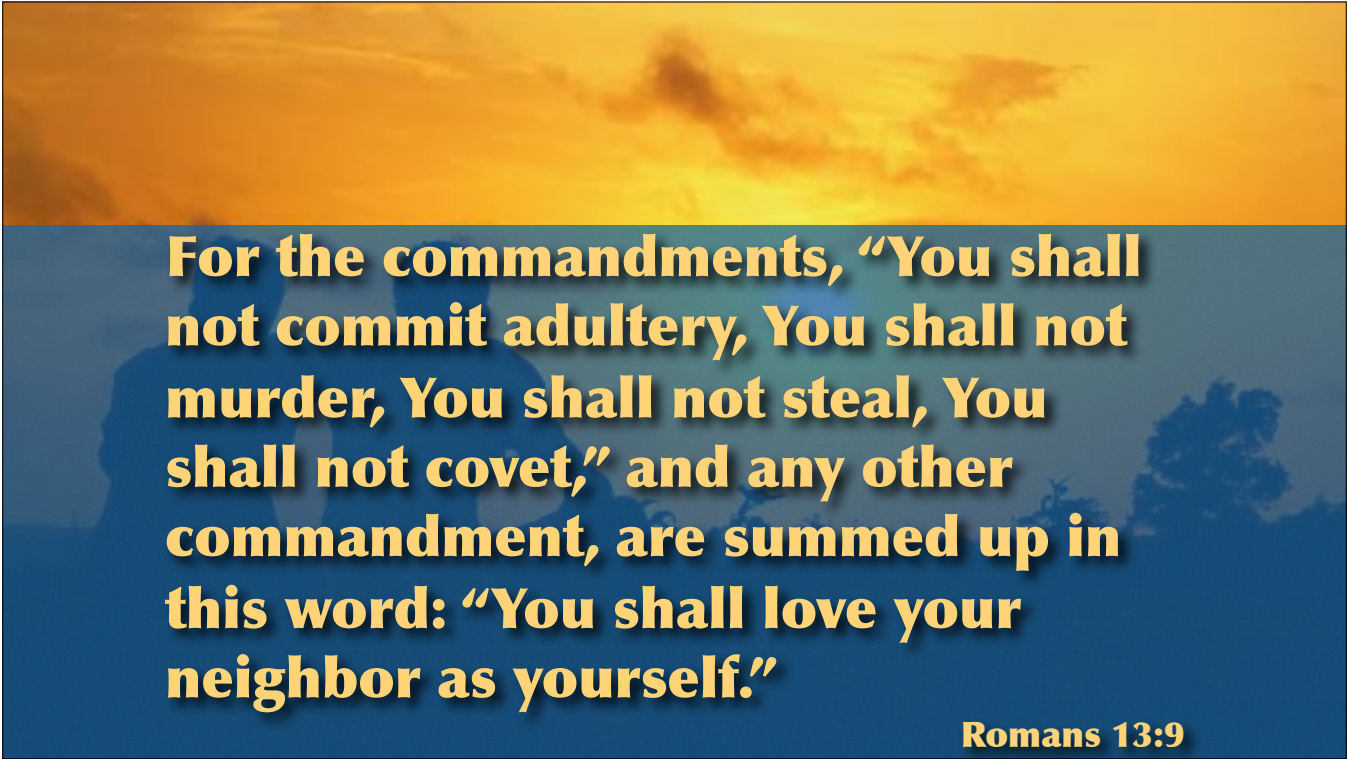


**For the commandments, “You shall not commit adultery, You shall not murder, You shall not steal, You shall not covet,” and any other commandment, are summed up in this word: “You shall love your neighbor as yourself.”**

**Romans 13:9**

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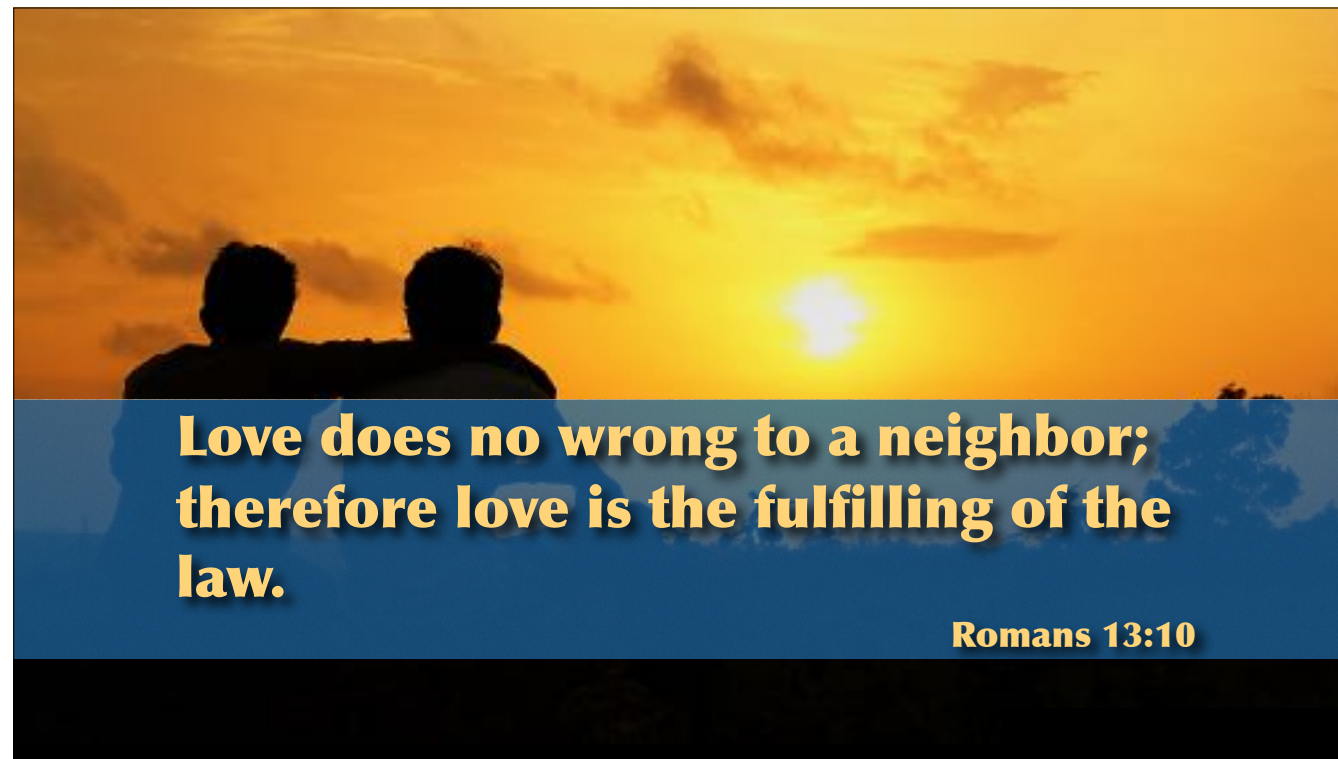




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**Romans 13:9**

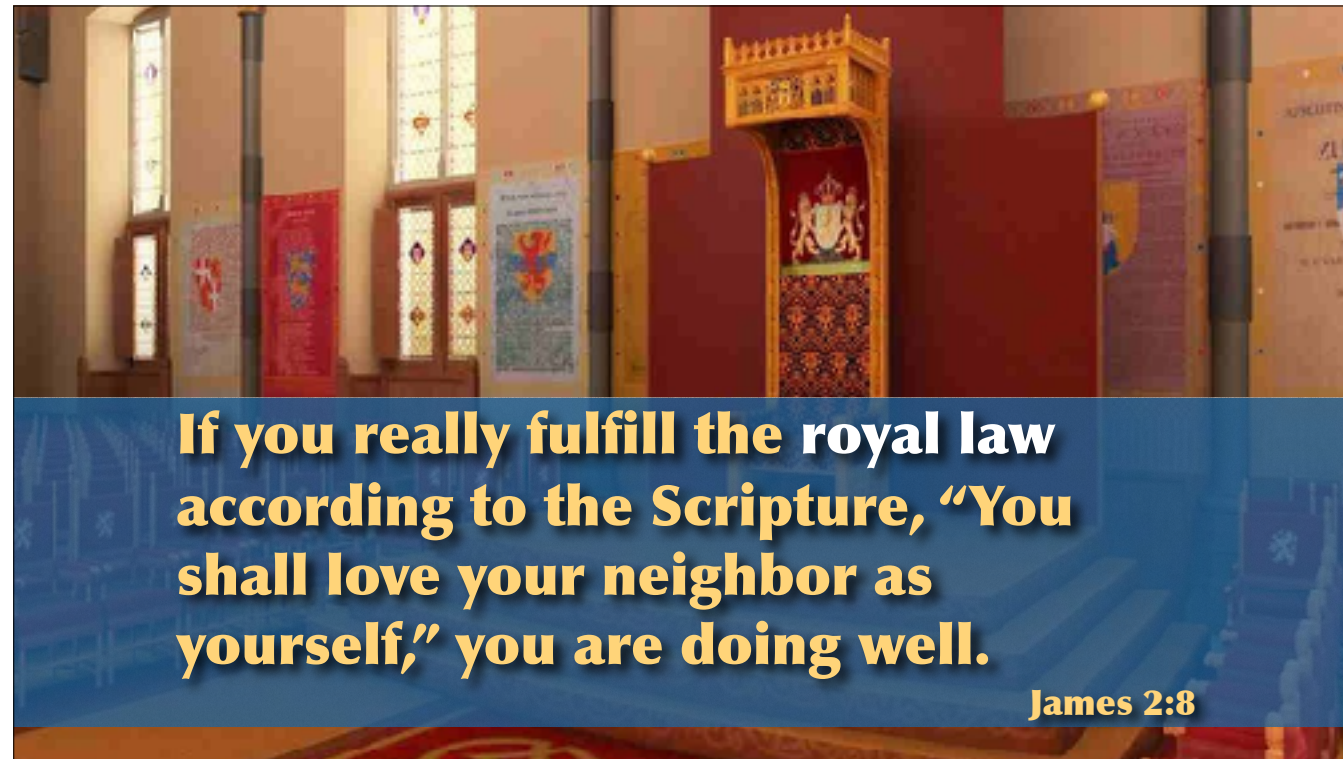
- Love each other = fulfilled the law
  - You shall not commit adultery
  - You shall not murder
  - You shall not steal
  - You shall not covet
  - ANY OTHER COMMANDMENT
- Summed up: YOU SHALL LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR AS YOURSELF



**Love does no wrong to a neighbor;  
therefore love is the fulfilling of the  
law.**

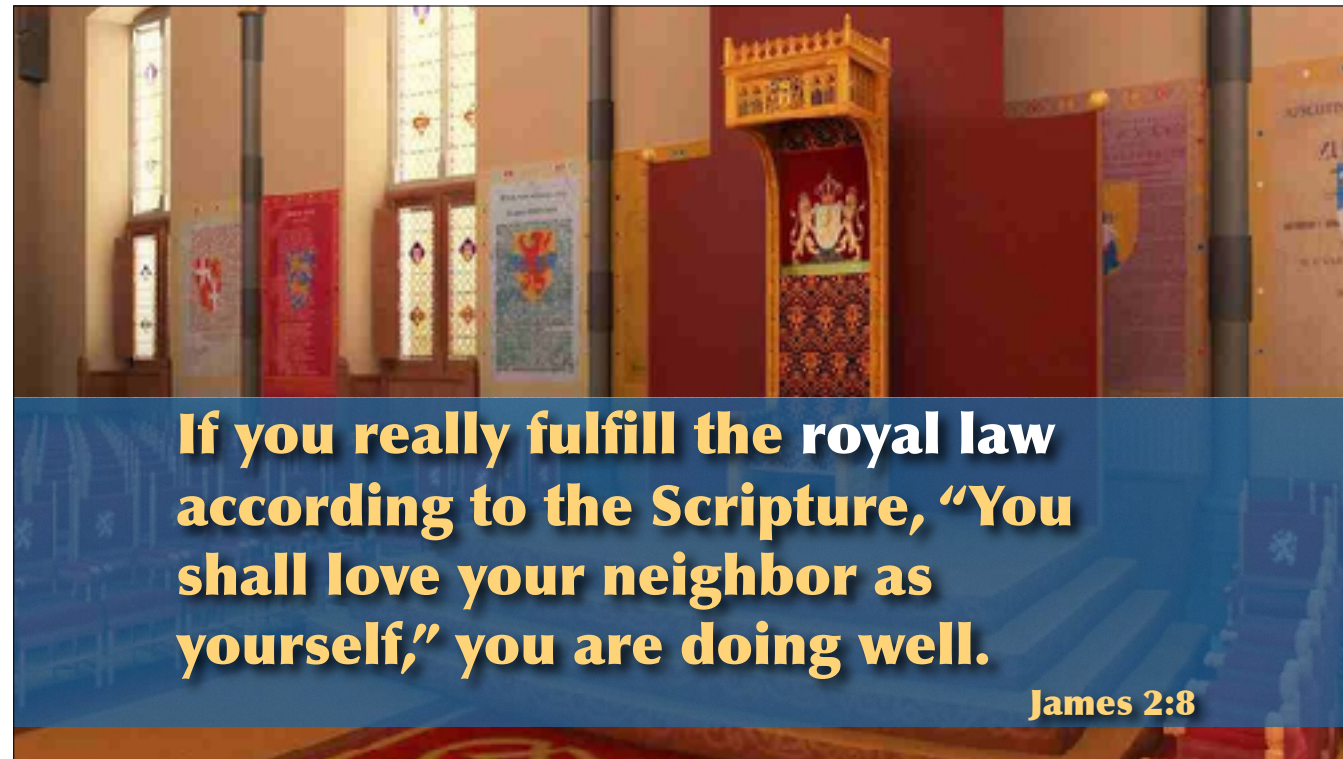
**Romans 13:10**

- Romans 13:10: Love does no wrong to a neighbor; therefore love is the fulfilling of the law.
  - Love does NO WRONG to a neighbor
  - Love is fulfilling the law
- An example of doing wrong.... James 2

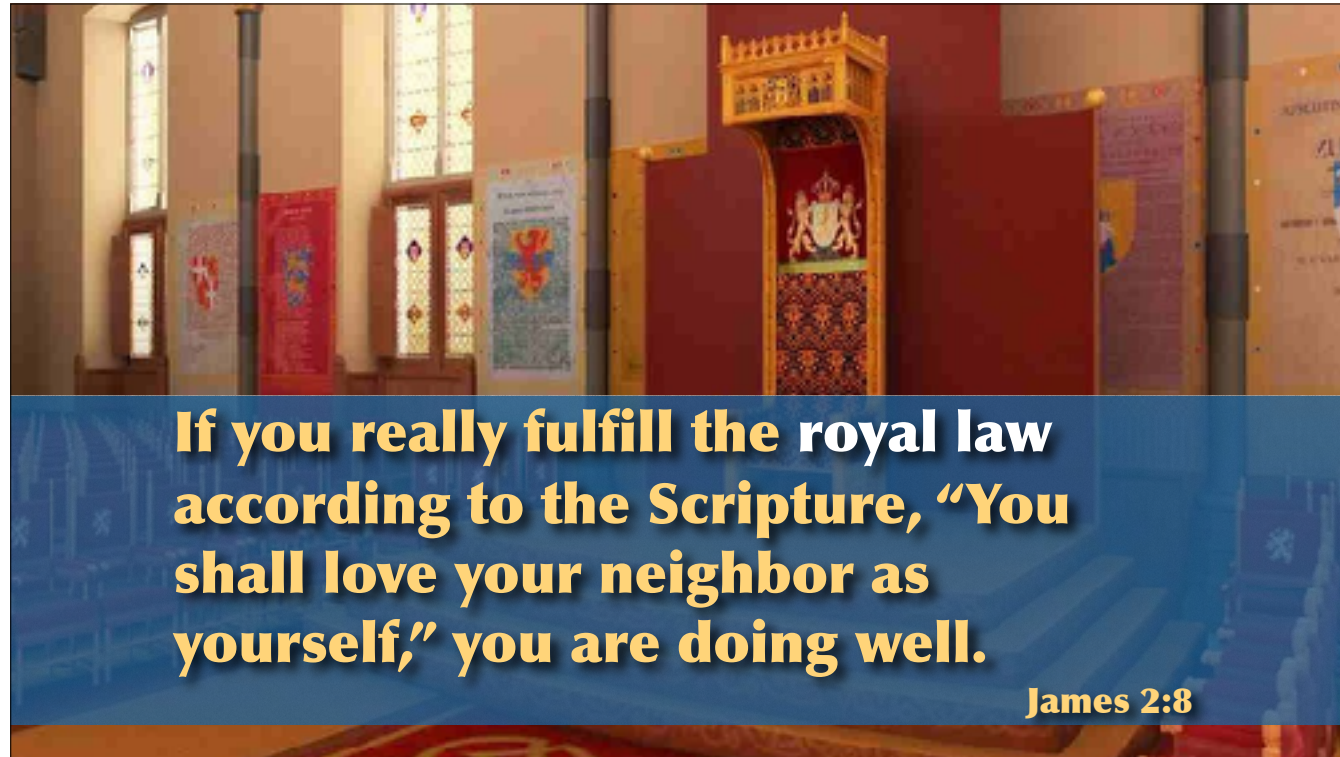


- James 2:8: If you really fulfill the royal law according to the Scripture, "You shall love your neighbor as yourself," you are doing well.
- Really fulfill ROYAL law
  - Royal = King (Kingdom!)
    - TDNT: In Jms. 2:8 ('royal law') the reference is to law as it is given by the king, and thus having royal dignity, rather than to preeminent law.
  - doing well





- REALLY...
  - Did the S&P really fulfill this law?
  - They would have said yes: no harvesting on Sabbath, no healing. Saving souls!
  - Jesus... Nope
    - Hunger
    - Healing
    - Greater than Sabbath, Temple.



- 2 My brothers,[a] show no partiality as you hold the faith in our Lord Jesus Christ, the Lord of glory. 2 For if a man wearing a gold ring and fine clothing comes into your assembly, and a poor man in shabby clothing also comes in, 3 and if you pay attention to the one who wears the fine clothing and say, "You sit here in a good place," while you say to the poor man, "You stand over there," or, "Sit down at my feet," 4 have you not then made distinctions among yourselves and become judges with evil thoughts? 5 Listen, my beloved brothers, has not God chosen those who are poor in the world to be rich in faith and heirs of the kingdom, which he has promised to those who love him? 6 But you have dishonored the poor man. Are not the rich the ones who oppress you, and the ones who drag you into court? 7 Are they not the ones who blaspheme the honorable name by which you were called?



- 2 For if a man wearing a gold ring and fine clothing comes into your assembly
  - Pay attention to the one who wears the fine clothing and say, “You sit here in a good place,”
- a poor man in shabby clothing also comes in
  - you say to the poor man, “You stand over there,” or, “Sit down at my feet,”

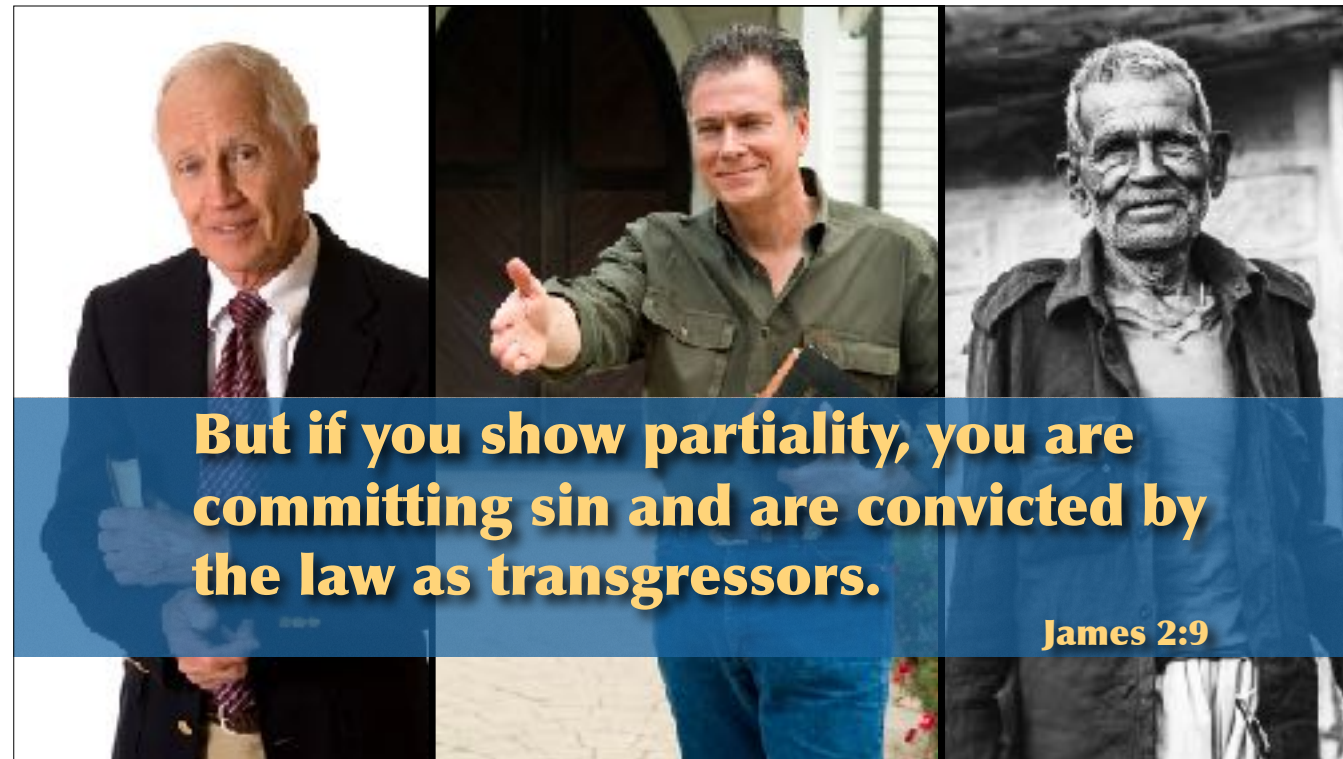




- As you wish others should do to you.
  - If you come to worship and are dressed “inappropriately” how would you want to be treated?
    - Disdained
    - Glances
    - Treated poorly
  - Love your neighbor as yourself
    - You’d never put up with being treated so poorly.
- Love, Welcome, Receive!

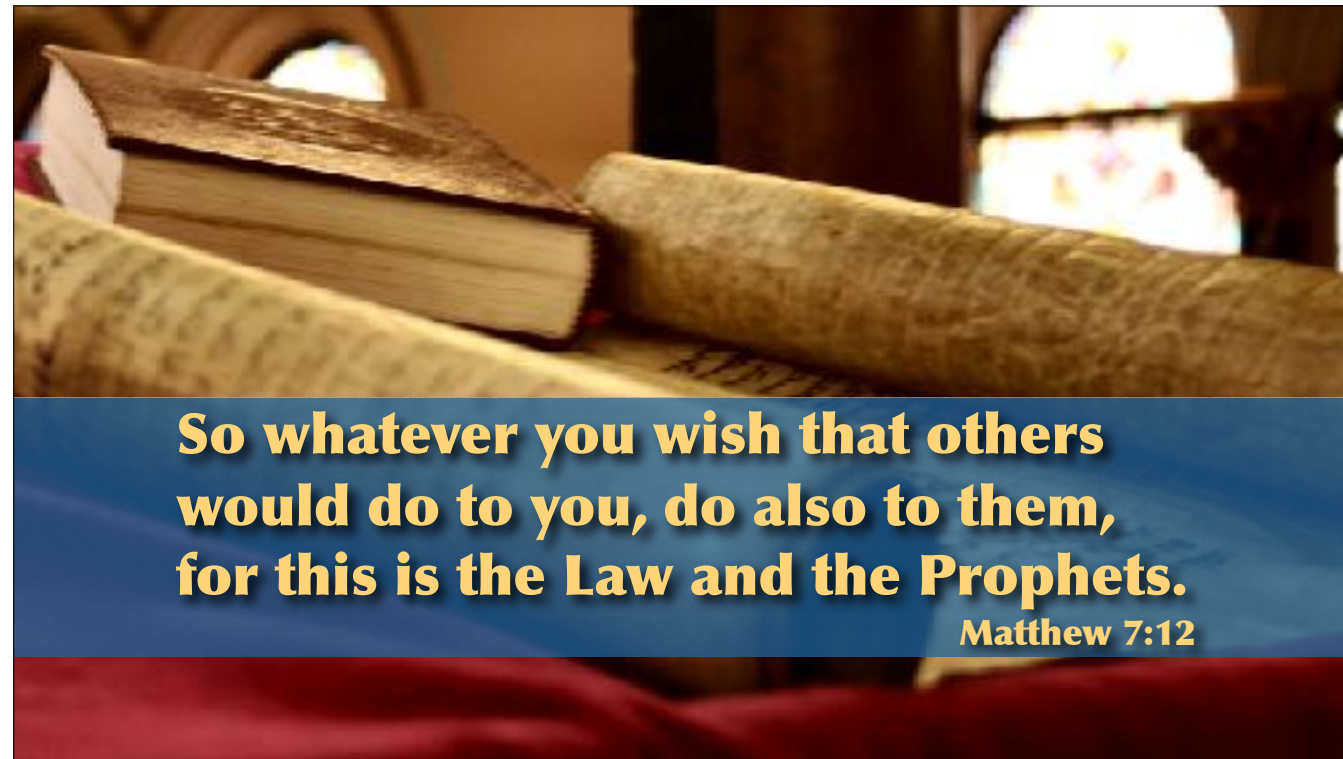


- 4 have you not then **made distinctions among yourselves** and
- become **judges with evil thoughts?**
- THIS IS NOT LOVE!

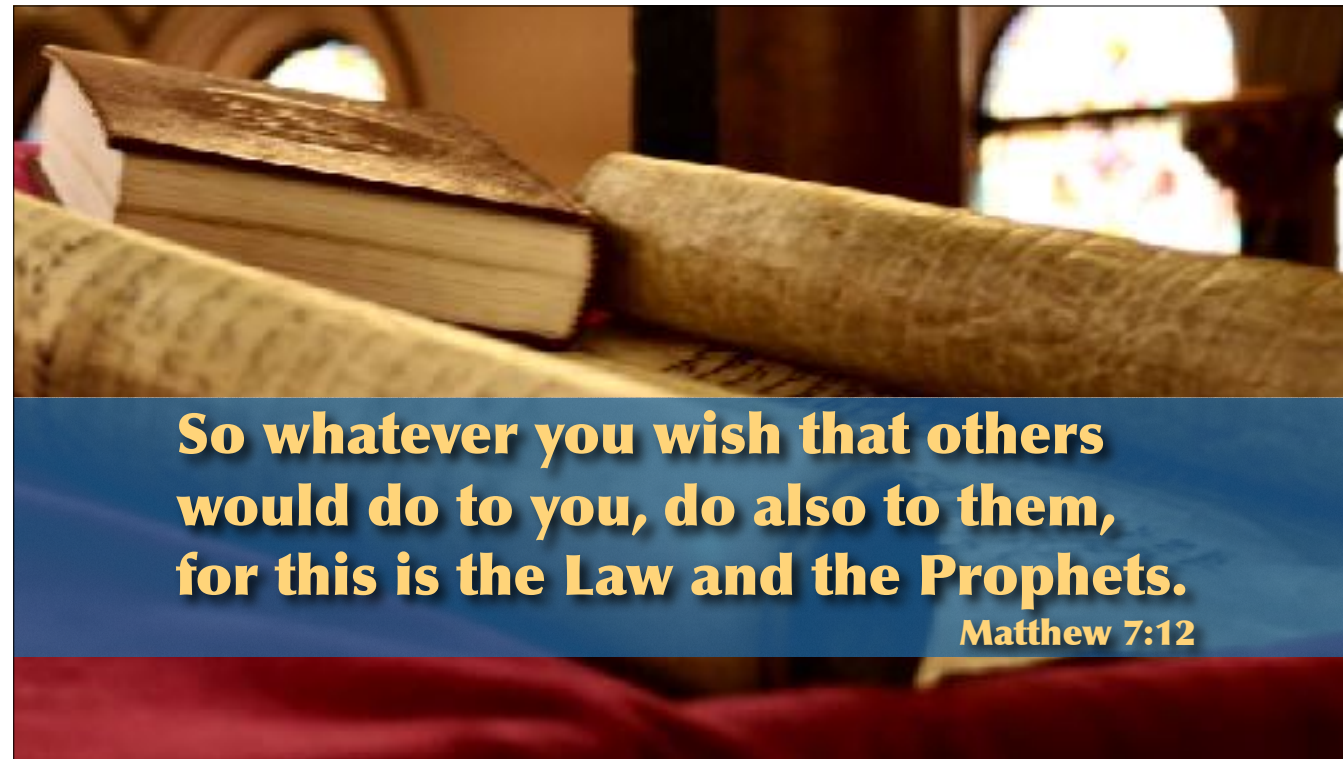


- James 2:9: But if you show partiality, you are committing sin and are convicted by the law as transgressors.
- If you shall partiality (love your neighbor!)
  - Committing sin
  - Convicted by law as transgressors



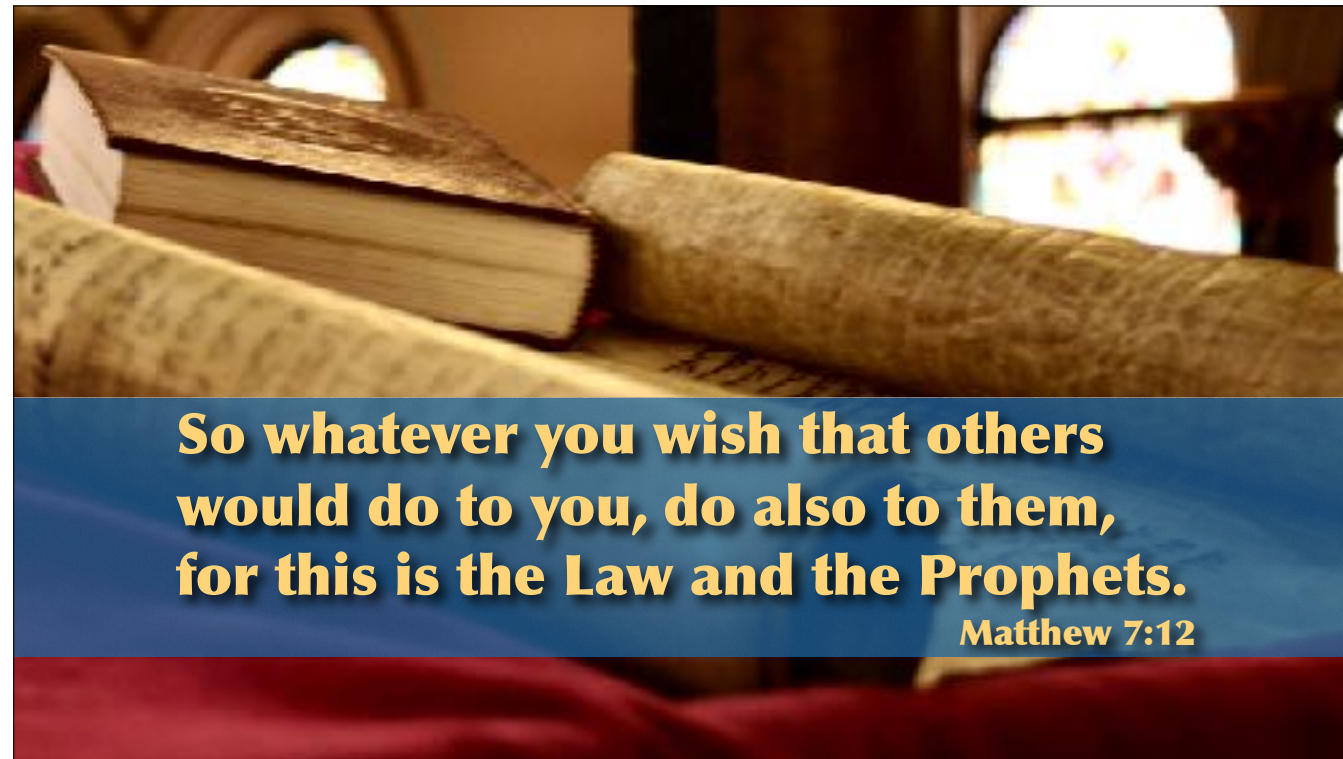


- Practicing true righteousness looks to love as our standard of attitude and action.
- Don't start with neighbor, start with God!
  - As fits the context!
    - cannot properly love neighbor without first loving God
      - God and self
        - see myself as a sinner
        - see myself as God sees me



**So whatever you wish that others  
would do to you, do also to them,  
for this is the Law and the Prophets.**  
**Matthew 7:12**

- View others as myself
  - See others as God sees them; treats them
    - Compassion and mercy and caring
    - Never deals with us according to what we deserve
    - Good gifts, in spite of who I am, what I've done
  - Treat others as God treats me.



**So whatever you wish that others  
would do to you, do also to them,  
for this is the Law and the Prophets.**  
Matthew 7:12

- When you are practicing your righteousness remember what it is really about.
  - Love God
  - Love neighbor.



**We implore you on  
behalf of Christ,  
be reconciled to God.**

**2 Corinthians 5:20**

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## Do Also to Them

Matthew 7:12

Synopsis: Jesus comes to the climax of his thoughts on practicing righteousness, reminding us of what it is all about. It's all about love.

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**"Let all that you do be done with love."**