

**Putting People  
Before Products  
Matthew 12:1-21**

1. What started the conflict between Jesus and the Pharisees (vv.1-2)?
2. How did Jesus respond to the Pharisees (vv.3-8)?
3. What does it mean to “desire mercy, not sacrifice” (v. 7)?
4. Why do our religious practices sometimes seem more important than showing mercy?
5. In verse 9 the scene changes to the synagogue. Why did the rulers ask Jesus if it is lawful to heal on the Sabbath (v. 10)?
6. What was Jesus implying by saying that any of them would rescue an animal from a pit on the Sabbath (vv. 11-12)?

How does his statement expose their values?

7. What are some ways in which our religious practices put property before people?

8. How do our business practices do the same? (Be specific about your work.)

9. Why do you think Jesus' response so angered the Pharisees (vv. 13-14)?

10. What is the message of the Isaiah passage quoted in verses 18-21?

11. How had Jesus proclaimed justice in that situation?

12. As you've worked through this study, what other ways that our society puts things before people have come to mind?

13. How can God's values reverse the trend-in our religious and business practices and in society at large?

How can we live out values that prioritize the well-being of people?