

MOOREBANK – HAMMONDVILLE ANGLICAN CHURCHES

QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION OR REFLECTION

Passage: Matthew 12:1-45

1. Do rules help people obey? Why/why not?

Read Matthew 12:1-21.

2. Jesus spoke about his “yoke” in 11:28-30 (i.e. requirements for discipleship). Compare the yoke of Jesus and the Pharisees by filling in this table:

	Yoke of the Pharisees	Yoke of Jesus
12:1-8		
12:9-14		

3. What is striking about the reaction of the Pharisees in v.14? What does it say about their desire to obey the law?
4. In v.7 Jesus accuses the Pharisees of not understanding Hosea 6:6. How did they get it wrong? In what ways do we make the same mistake today?
5. The Pharisees prefer “the law” to “the lawgiver”. Why? Why do we sometimes act the same way?
6. How does Jesus’ behaviour fulfil the prophecy of Isaiah 42:1-4 (quoted in vv.18-21)? What does this tell us the Lord of the Sabbath is like?

Read Matthew 12:22-50

7. As opposition against Jesus continues to grow, the Pharisees charge him with using the power of Beelzebub to drive out demons. How does Jesus answer the charge (vv.25-29)? What arguments does he use?
 - i.
 - ii.
 - iii.
8. What is the meaning of Jesus’ parable in v.29? How might this encourage those who have a fear of demonic activity and/or evil spirits?
9. In v.30 Jesus says: ‘whoever is not with me is against me, and whoever does not gather with me scatters.’ What’s at stake with how we respond to Jesus (vv.31-32)? How do we demonstrate our response (vv.33-37)?
10. In vv.38-42 the Pharisees ask Jesus for a sign. Why was this wicked? What is the sign they already have?
11. What is your response to Jesus? Do you feel like you have enough to go on? What else would help you respond?