



LIFEGROUPS

Series: *Missing*
Message: *Finding Hope*

Scripture: *Matthew 12:1-21*

Date: November 2-3, 2019

—[LET'S START]—

We've come to the end of our series, "Missing." What is the biggest takeaway that you have had from this series? Have you taken a step this series with someone on your Adopt 7 list?

—[LET'S TALK]—

1. **GRATITUDE AND PRAYER:** What happened last week for which you are thankful? What challenges do you see in your life? Your family? The World? Thank God for the beautiful ways that He has been at work. Pray for the challenges that those in your group are currently facing.
2. This week's sermon gave us some insight into the heart of the Pharisees, some of Israel's religious leaders during the time of Jesus. What are some things that stood out to you about the faith of the Pharisees?
3. Read Matthew 5:20.

What would have been considered so radical about Jesus teaching in this verse?
4. Read Matthew 12:1-14.

What does this passage teach us about Jesus? What does it teach us about the Pharisees? What about us?
5. It can be easy to find ourselves falling into the trap that the Pharisees found themselves in. The trap said that "rules matter more than people." What are some ways that this happens today?
6. How do you let your beliefs, convictions and views inform how you think about and treat others? Do your rules matter more than people? Or do people matter more than your rules?
7. How are we supposed to think and behave about those who don't follow the rules? How are we supposed to think and behave about those who have put rules ahead of people? Is there a balance?

—[LET'S ACT]—

Dale ended his message by saying, "If the church is the body of Christ in the world shouldn't we be different? Without ever compromising the truth, shouldn't we be determined by our words and actions to make Jesus known as the hope of the world? That's what Vision 22 and beyond is all about. We want to become and establish epicenters of hope." He then showed a video from our Annual Meeting, which captured what we are all about when it comes to hope.

Let's commit to being people of hope this week. What is one place from your life that you can be an ambassador of hope this week? Let's end by praying for each other. Let's pray that we would represent the hope of Christ and be faithful to the Gospel of Christ this week.

—[SERMON REVIEW]—

- It's always easier to see the Pharisee in others instead of ourselves!
- No one can please God by their own best efforts! If that were the case, then Jesus would not need to sacrifice Himself for the sins of the world.
- In Matthew 12, the Pharisees showed that they believed that "Rules matter more than people!" Jesus turned that upside down. He showed that "People matter more than rules."
- God does not give gifts to make people miserable! The Sabbath was intended by God to make life easier for His people! Unlike their pagan neighbors who worked all the time trying to eek out a living or hoard wealth, the Israelites had God to depend on. He would always provide and bless them with bountiful harvests. The Sabbath was a gift to them for resting and focusing on the goodness of belonging to God.
- The religious leaders made God's law what he never intended it to be. They loved their rules more than God and more than the people. They wore them as badges of honor to prove they were worthy of God's favor.
- Sometimes we fall into the same trap as the Pharisees. How do you let your beliefs, convictions and views inform how you think about and treat others? Do your rules matter more than people? Or do people matter more than your rules?
- Does your commitment to spiritual disciplines matter more than people or do people matter more than your spiritual disciplines?
- Jesus' method is not to bully or harass the people. He does not threaten or pick a fight. Instead Jesus came to bring hope where hurt existed.

—[NOTES]—
