

SERMON NOTES: January 4, 2026

Ready! Set! STOP! Matthew 12:1-31

I. Who is in charge? - 12:1-8

II. What does He want? - 12:9-21

“But I say to you that something greater than the temple is here.” 12:6

III. Why does it matter? - 12:22-32

Whoever speaks a word against the Son of Man, it shall be forgiven him; but whoever speaks against the Holy Spirit, it shall not be forgiven him, either in this age or in the age to come. 12:32

Action Point

Are you listening to Christ with a humble heart? What action can you take to help this become priority in your life?

Life Group Study Questions

Ready! Set! STOP!

Matthew 12:1-32

1. How are you feeling about 2026? What is the heavy thing that looms on the horizon?

2. Why is “who is in charge” the most important question you can answer before beginning the year?

3. We are often tempted to put our hope in the traditions of our Christianity instead of Christ. How does this truth show itself in the issue of keeping the Sabbath in Matthew 12?

4. The Pharisees accused Jesus & His disciples of violating the Sabbath. Jesus' response reveals that they were blind about several things. Name a few.

5. When Jesus quotes Hosea (I desire compassion, and not sacrifice) He is pointing out the fact that the Pharisees had misunderstood the purpose of the Law of God. What had they missed?

6. What is the proof that the Pharisees were not truly listening to Jesus in 12:9-14? How are we like the Pharisees in the way we listen to Christ? What does it reveal about our motivations?

7. The reasons we should listen to Christ are revealed in 12:18-22. He is the Father's . . .

8. There are only two categories of people according to Christ. What are they and how are they demonstrated (12:30)

9. What is the unpardonable sin? How are the Pharisees an illustration of those who have committed this sin? Why is there hope for even those who have blasphemed (the worst sin) against Christ?