Our Merciful Lord
Matthew 12:1-14

Sermon Discussion Questions
April 23, 2023

1. Could you talk about any cases of tricky ethical situations you have met and how you have responded and acted? Consider these and listen to one another's stories and struggles as you consider the following questions.

2. Do you have any special know-how to make decisions in complex situations in your life? If so, please share.

3. What does it mean that the Son of Man is Lord of the Sabbath? Do you believe that Jesus is Lord over your situations? How does this help you look at any difficult situation?

4. **Read Matt 12:7-8.** Why does Jesus quote the passage "I desire mercy, not sacrifice"? How does this affect how you view the situations that you are in? What barriers have gotten in the way of you displaying mercy to people in difficult situations in the past?

5. Have you experienced Satan attempting to work against you in difficult situations? How can you identify and repulse Satan in the future?

6. **Read Psalm 103:8-12.** Do you tend to view God as merciful and loving? How does this free you from shame related to how you have dealt with difficult situations?

7. It was pointed out that Jesus never asks us to do more than he was already willing to do for us. Have you thought about this before? How have you seen this in your own life? How has Jesus experienced suffering similar to the ways he is currently asking you to suffer for his name? Does this encourage you in your suffering and ethical decision making?

8. How did Jesus involve himself in the culture around him? How can this teaching change the way we think about our involvement in culture around us?

9. How can you seek to know Jesus' will in difficult ethical decisions? Thank God that He is with us through them. How do you personally experience his presence in situations like these?

10. Which of the five questions from this sermon resonated with you this week? How can the answer to that question affect the way you relate to and interact with others?