



International Bible Study Commentary

Verse-by-Verse Bible Lessons Thru the Bible

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Praying Through Matthew 12:1-8

Dear Heavenly Father, all-loving and all-merciful God, thank You for sending Your Son, Jesus Christ, into the world. Thank You for sending Jesus full of grace and truth for us. Indeed, we have received grace upon grace from You that we do not deserve! We thank You that Jesus Christ showed us Your grace and mercy when He died on the cross that those who received Him and believed in Him might have eternal life, for we also believe in Him and accept Him as our Lord and Savior. We thank You that because of Jesus' teachings we know all Your laws were given for our behalf and to promote our well-being, when many laws given by people are for their benefit and not the benefit of others. Thank You for Jesus' example when He told the Pharisees that He would not force His disciples to go hungry on the Sabbath to satisfy their human traditions. Indeed, the Bible teaches that You established the Sabbath for our good, because we need time to thank You rightly and worship You as You deserve, and we need time to rest from our labors. Thank You for creating us and being concerned for every part of us and our lives every day. We thank You for Jesus Who stood up for Your glory and honor, and for the real needs of every person, when He refused to do or say anything that was contrary to Your will, which cost Jesus His life in our behalf as You planned. Please help us to learn from Jesus and apply His teachings to our practical everyday lives and to all our relationships. Help us show others mercy as Jesus did, and not look for reasons to condemn others, as Jesus refused to do when He said He had come to save the lost and not condemn people. May we too pray and seek to bless others rather than condemn them as we follow Jesus and uphold Your Law, a Law that shows Your love for everyone. Please fill us with Your Holy Spirit and help us show grace and mercy to all who do not deserve it, knowing we do not deserve Your grace and mercy either. Please give us a loving heart and teach us by Jesus' teachings and actions, so we will do what is right and love others, forgive others, and no longer look for reasons to condemn others—but look for ways to bless everyone. Please help us avoid thinking that our "righteous" duties or religious practices will bring happiness to You, when we need to repent of our sins, receive Your forgiveness, and do as Jesus did. Help us obey Your Law and encourage others to do the same when we show grace and mercy to others as You intend. In Jesus name we pray, Amen