

# “Red Letter Words: Gospel Orthodoxy”

Matthew 12:1-14

Ray Cortese, January 25/26, 2014

## Reflect on the Text

\*Note: Why do we do this first? We always want to start with the Bible itself. The goal is to meditate on the Word and read it with an ear sensitive to the Holy Spirit’s promptings. Look for words or phrases that stand out through logic, repetition, layout, etc.

- Read Matthew 12:1-14. What stood out to you? What did you find interesting and/or important? What was challenging or caused you to have questions?

## Reflect on the Sermon

### INTRODUCTION

- 1 Ray gave several examples of “orthodoxy”: political, health, theological. Can you give any other examples of things people claim to be “orthodox” about?
- 2 Summarize the *Big Idea* of the sermon in **one phrase or sentence** (Note: this is not the same as listing the main points). In other words, if someone woke you up at 3am on Monday morning and asked, “What was the sermon about on Sunday?” what would you say in the midst of your sleepy haze?

### THE MARKS OF GOSPEL ORTHODOXY – HUMILITY

- 3 Define humility in your own words. What makes us blind to our own sin, but experts at seeing the sins of others? Can you recall a time when your own sin was pointed out to you and God gave you the grace to own it?
- 4 How would you respond to someone who says, “How could a Christian do \_\_\_\_\_!?”

## THE MARKS OF GOSPEL ORTHODOXY – MERCY

- 5 Why is mercy a truer test of orthodoxy than theological acumen?
- 6 What was the point of the story Ray told about the pastor who embedded himself in AA?

## THE MARKS OF GOSPEL ORTHODOXY – REST

- 7 How did the Pharisees turn the Sabbath into a burden rather than a joy?
- 8 What do you think the Sabbath teaches us about God and ourselves?
- 9 Why are youth sports, trips to Disney, and sleeping in detrimental to the Sabbath? What do you typically do on the Sabbath? What might you need to change about how you spend your Sabbath?
- 10 What is the difference between physical rest and soul rest? How do you achieve soul rest? Why did Ray mention “June-teenth”?

## **Final Reflections**

- How has your understanding, appreciation, and love for God and the gospel grown as a result of this study?
- In what areas of faith and practice are you feeling convicted by the Holy Spirit to act as a result of this study?