

# Dangerous Men of the Bible

## *Jesus: Challenger of Temple & Empire*

*Protests and complaints. Backbiting and disrespect. We live in a culture where those seem to be the primary modes of communication and “action” when it comes to our world. Our society is broken and someone needs to fix it. Our government is an embarrassment, but we don’t know who’s supposed to change it. So we protest and complain. Things weren’t any better in Jesus’ day – the government was just as problematic and society was just as broken. On the other hand, there wasn’t any social media to depend on to raise a ruckus and the Romans didn’t tolerate wholesale protest. But that didn’t stop Jesus from challenging the Empire ... nor did it deter him from challenging the Temple. And that made Jesus extremely dangerous.*

Matthew 12:1–8

1. Dangerous people have \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_.
2. Jesus challenged the Temple because the \_\_\_\_\_ supplanted the \_\_\_\_\_.
3. Empires serve at the \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_.
4. I am \_\_\_\_\_ because God has empowered me to be the \_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_ of life’s problems.

### ***My Count Me In! Commitments***

- I’ll be here next Sunday
- I’ll invite a friend
- I’ll take back my power ... I’ll be the solution
- I’ll stop protesting and DO something constructive
- I’ll rethink my part of – and in – “church”

### **Additional Notes**

## **Digging Deeper, Going Further**

### *Dangerous Men of the Bible: Jesus*

**Scripture:** Matthew 12:1–8

**Introduction:** In a world that's become increasingly reliant on institutions, it can be both refreshing and terrifying to be confronted by someone who's committed to making a difference on some personal level. When we meet someone who has the rare combination of purpose and passion, they often come across as a radical ... and in today's parlance, anyone who's radical is a threat. But that's not just a modern take on things. Jesus challenged both Temple and Empire – and it got him killed.

1. What are some of the “rules” of church/Christianity that you've seen crumble during your lifetime?
2. Can you share about a time when you met someone who was “on fire” about changing some aspect of the world? (or community, city, church, etc.) What were they like to be around?
3. Read Matthew 12:1–8. Why do you think the Pharisees were so upset with Jesus' and the disciple's behavior?
4. What do you think it means when Jesus claimed to be “Lord of the Sabbath”? How was this a challenge to the Temple?
5. Dr. Bill said that we are extremely dangerous because God has empowered us to be the solution to all of life's problems. How do you think God has empowered us to do and to be the solution?
6. What problems in your community has God empowered you to be a part of the solution?
7. What problems in the church has God empowered you to be a part of the solution?

***Next Week: Prayer for the Rest of Us***

***Who will you be inviting to worship with you this week?***