

## **THIS WEEK'S STUDY: 9/20-21/2021 *Matthew Chapter 12***

**PLEASE NOTE WE WILL CONTINUE TO NEED A PASSCODE TO JOIN THE STUDY!**

**MONDAY 7 PM Bible Study - Time: 07:00 PM Pacific Time (US and Canada)**

**THE MONDAY NIGHT STUDY HAS RESUMED MEETING IN CLASSROOM HS107, CCCM, AS WELL AS CONTINUING IN ZOOM!!**

**MEETING ID# - 87858644763 Passcode: 087484**

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**TUESDAY 7 AM Bible Study - Time: 07:00 AM Pacific Time (US and Canada).**

**THE TUESDAY MORNING STUDY HAS RESUMED MEETING IN THE FAMILY ROOM, CCCM, AS WELL AS CONTINUING IN ZOOM!!**

**MEETING ID# - 85309150746 - Passcode: 715340**

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### **OPENING PRAYER**

**Theme of Chapter 12 – Conflict and final break of Jesus, over the Sabbath, with the religious rulers!**

**THIS WEEK'S STUDY: The Gospel According to Matthew! *Chapter 12***

**Jesus is the Lord of the Sabbath – (vs. 1-8); Healing on the Sabbath – (vs. 9-14);**

**Behold My Servant – (vs. 15-30); The Unpardonable Sin – (vs. 31-32);**

**A Tree Known by Its Fruit – (vs. 33-37); The Scribes and Pharisees Ask for a Sign – (vs. 38-42);**

**An Unclean Spirit Returns – (vs. 43-45); Jesus' Mother and Brothers Send for Him – (vs. 46-50);**

## **Review:**

**Mat 11:28** *Come to Me, all you who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.*

**Mat 11:29** *Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls.*

**Mat 11:30** *For My yoke is easy and My burden is light."*

## **Jesus Is Lord of the Sabbath**

**Mat 12:1** *At that time Jesus went through the grainfields on the Sabbath. And His disciples were hungry, and began to pluck heads of grain and to eat.*

**Mat 12:2** *And when the Pharisees saw it, they said to Him, "Look, Your disciples are doing what is not lawful to do on the Sabbath!"*

- **The grainfields were likely barley or wheatfields.** Because the disciples were hungry they picked some of the heads of grain to eat. While it was perfectly "legal" to pluck or pick heads of grain from a field as one would walk by them and then to rub the heads to dislodge the grain from the husks, the Pharisees believed that constituted a kind of reaping or harvesting, which was expressly forbidden, under Jewish tradition, to be done on the Sabbath. So, the Pharisees condemned Jesus' disciples for harvesting grain on the Sabbath, which was a violation of their traditions.

**Mat 12:3** *But He said to them, "Have you not read what David did when he was hungry, he and those who were with him:*

**Mat 12:4** *how he entered the house of God and ate the showbread which was not lawful for him to eat, nor for those who were with him, but only for the priests?*

- **Jesus responds in defending His disciples by referring to the time King David was fleeing** from Saul, coming to Nob, to the tabernacle, and Ahimelech the priest, looking for something to eat. All the priest had was the holy bread. After David confirmed that women had been kept from them for three days, David and his men ate this shewbread that was not lawful for the common person to eat. Jesus is reminding them of David's infraction of the law, which shows that human need of those, when following Jesus' command, takes priority over their law and traditions. *His disciples were hungry.*

**Mat 12:5** *Or have you not read in the law that on the Sabbath the priests in the temple profane the Sabbath, and are blameless?*

- **On the sabbath day, it was required that they have double sacrifices over the ordinary day,** the sabbath day there was a doubling of the sacrifices. In the killing of the sacrifices, in the kindling of the fire on the altar, in performing this service on the sabbath day, they were actually in violation of the laws of the sabbath where you're not to kindle a fire, and of course, you're not to do any kind of labor. Yet, the priests, in offering these double sacrifices, were doing these things. Jesus reminds them how that the priests under the law profaned the sabbath and yet were praised by these religious leaders, for their work on the Sabbath.

**Mat 12:6** *Yet I say to you that in this place there is One greater than the temple.*

- **Jesus, referring to Himself, declared that in this place there is One that is greater than the temple.** Now Jesus in defending the disciples, is pointing out that human need is even above the rules that were established. The fact that David was hungry, the human hunger, the human need, superseded the rule that only the priest were to eat the shewbread. The fact that they were laboring in the temple, in the service of God, they were permitted to violate certain regulations of the sabbath day; because they were involved in the service of God. So, the disciples, involved in the service of God. One greater than the temple was there with them, even Jesus Christ. Thus, He was excusing His disciples for the violation of the traditions of the Sabbath.

**Mat 12:7** *But if you had known what this means, 'I DESIRE MERCY AND NOT SACRIFICE,' you would not have condemned the guiltless.*

- **Notice Jesus says concerning these disciples, they are guiltless.** If you only understood what God was talking about, God would rather have you be merciful than to offer sacrifices. We remember Paul's teaching concerning love in First Corinthians thirteen. How that love is superior to any sacrifice that you might make. It is superior to any gift that you might possess. It is superior to any work that you might do for the Lord. For if these things are not done in love, they become meaningless. Here Jesus is saying, "It's more important that you be merciful, than that you keep the letter of the law. God would rather have you to be merciful than to offer sacrifices.
- **When Saul had disobeyed the command of God to utterly destroy the Amalekites, the prophet Samuel faced him over his disobedience.** Saul gave the lame excuse, Oh the animals that we brought back were so beautiful and wonderful, we thought we would bring them back and offer them as sacrifices

to God. God said, "Utterly slay them." The prophet Samuel said, (*ISa 15:22b*) *Behold, to obey is better than sacrifice, And to heed than the fat of rams.* God is interested in mercy more than in sacrifice. God is interested in your being loving, more than He is some marvelous work You might do for Him. More than some powerful gift of the Spirit that you might manifest, or more than some sacrifice that you might make.

***Mat 12:8 For the Son of Man is Lord even of the Sabbath."***

- **Christ has the prerogative to rule over not only their man-made rules in keeping the Sabbath, but also over the Sabbath itself**, which was designed for worshipping God. Jesus again claims deity. His claim of deity prompts violent outrage from the Pharisees!
- **Paul the apostle, said, (Col 2:16-17)** *So let no one judge you in food or in drink, or regarding a festival or a new moon or sabbaths, [17] which are a shadow of things to come, but the substance is of Christ.* The Sabbath rest was just a shadow of things to come. The substance is Jesus. It foreshadowed the rest that we have in the finished work of Jesus. In the original Sabbath, God rested from His creative works. It was a time of rest, even though the Jewish traditions had turned into a day of bondage, creating 39 prohibitions regarding worship.
- **For us, believers, our Sabbath is Jesus.** We are resting in Him and in His finished work. I can't do any work to redeem myself, or to save myself. The work has been done by Jesus Christ and I rest in Him! So, He is my Sabbath. If you want to know about my sabbath day? I point to Jesus, He's my Sabbath. I'm resting, there's my rest. Those who have entered into Christ have ceased from their own labors and are resting in Him. He becomes our Sabbath. So "*the Son of man is Lord even of the Sabbath!*" Greater than the temple. Jesus is the Lord of the Sabbath!
- **Jesus put His hand on the most sacred observance they had when He said that He was Lord of the Sabbath day.** In the eyes of the Pharisees, He could make no greater claim. It certainly engendered their bitterness and their hatred.

### **A Man with a Withered Hand**

***Mat 12:9 Now when He had departed from there, He went into their synagogue.***

***Mat 12:10 And behold, there was a man who had a withered hand. And they asked Him, saying, "Is it lawful to heal on the Sabbath?"—that they might accuse Him.***

- ***Is it lawful to heal on the Sabbath?*** *When He had departed from there, still on the Sabbath, He went into their synagogue:* According to their tradition and their traditional interpretation of the law, you could not heal on the sabbath day. They determined that was not lawful. If you put a band aid on, it couldn't have any medication on it. You could put one on so you didn't get blood all over, but you couldn't have medication on it. You could do what was necessary to save a life but nothing towards the healing process until the sabbath day was over. You could take whatever emergency measures you need to just keep the guy alive, and hopefully, he'll live through the Sabbath and then you can start the process of setting the broken bone or whatever you need to do, but no healing on the Sabbath! So, they brought up this point of law. Is it lawful to heal on the Sabbath? The Pharisees' whole point was just to bring an accusation against Him.

***Mat 12:11 Then He said to them, "What man is there among you who has one sheep, and if it falls into a pit on the Sabbath, will not lay hold of it and lift it out?"***

- ***And he said unto them, If one of your sheep should fall in the pit, on the Sabbath, wouldn't you lift it out?*** Notice how they had elevated their possessions, their livestock, over human life! *How much then is this man better than a sheep?* Jesus wasn't an environmentalist. He felt that men were better than animals. If you would help a sheep on the Sabbath that was in distress, shouldn't you help people who are in distress even though it is the Sabbath?

***Mat 12:12 Of how much more value then, is a man than a sheep? Therefore it is lawful to do good on the Sabbath.***

- **Then He asked them a question, *Is it lawful to do good on the Sabbath?*** Sheep are not only harmless but useful creatures, being prized and tended accordingly; yet a man is here preferred far before them.

***Mat 12:13 Then He said to the man, "Stretch out your hand." And he stretched it out, and it was restored as whole as the other.***

- **This was the breach. Christ's curing of the man on the Sabbath**, notwithstanding the offence which He foresaw the Pharisees would take at it. Though they could not answer Christ's arguments, they were resolved to persist in their prejudice and enmity; but Christ went on with His work, which is a great example for us!
- **It is Christ only, by the power of His grace, that cures us!** He heals the withered hand by putting life into the dead soul. He works in us both to will and to do. He commands us to stretch forth our hands, to

improve our natural powers, and do as well as we can; to stretch them out in prayer to God, to stretch them out to lay hold on Christ by faith.

- **This man could not stretch forth his withered hand of himself**, any more than the impotent man could arise and carry his bed, or Lazarus come forth out of his grave; yet Christ bid him do it. God's commands to us to do the duty which of ourselves we are not able to do are no more absurd or unjust, than this command to the man with the withered hand, to stretch it forth; for with the command, there is a promise of grace. Those who perish are as inexcusable as this man would have been, if he had not attempted to stretch forth his hand, and so had not been healed. But those who are saved have no more to boast of than this man had of contributing to his own cure, by stretching forth his hand, but are as much indebted to the power and grace of Christ as he was.

**Mat 12:14 Then the Pharisees went out and plotted against Him, how they might destroy Him.**

**(Mar 3:6) Then the Pharisees went out and immediately plotted with the Herodians against Him, how they might destroy Him.**

- **This is the thing that created the real break.** Nothing sooner leads to utter blindness, and hardness of heart, **than envy!** They were sorely vexed, not only that by His miracles, His honour eclipsed theirs, but that the doctrine He preached was directly opposite to their pride, and hypocrisy, and worldly interest; They gathered together. They held a council *against Him, how they might destroy Him*. At this point, they determined we've got to destroy Him. The Pharisees, in the hardness of their hearts responded not in reverent worship and submission, but in hardened, murderous rejection!

### God's Chosen Servant

**Mat 12:15 But when Jesus knew it, He withdrew from there. And great multitudes followed Him, and He healed them all.**

**Mat 12:16 Yet He warned them not to make Him known,**

- **Don't go out and publicize it.** Jesus was not wanting a premature attempt of the people to try to overthrow the Roman government and to establish Him as king and to create a rebellion against Rome in which many lives would be lost. He's putting down their fervor and their zeal, just telling them not to let it be known.

**Mat 12:17 that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by Isaiah the prophet, saying:**

**Mat 12:18 "BEHOLD! MY SERVANT WHOM I HAVE CHOSEN, MY BELOVED IN WHOM MY SOUL IS WELL PLEASED! I WILL PUT MY SPIRIT UPON HIM, AND HE WILL DECLARE JUSTICE TO THE GENTILES.**

- **The scope of it is to show how mild and quiet, and yet how successful, our Lord Jesus should be in His undertaking.** We see instances of both in these passages; That our Savior was God's Servant in the great work of our redemption, chosen of God, as the only fit and proper person for the management of the great work of our redemption. That Jesus Christ is God's Beloved, His beloved Son; as God, He lay from eternity in His bosom. That Jesus Christ is One in whom the Father is well pleased.

**Mat 12:19 HE WILL NOT QUARREL NOR CRY OUT, NOR WILL ANYONE HEAR HIS VOICE IN THE STREETS.**

- **They had gathered together, this council against Jesus.** They were determining to destroy Him, and rather than standing up and fighting them, "I have My rights," and demanding His first amendment rights, He just left. Great multitudes followed. He ministered to them. He healed their sick. But He didn't want to create a confrontation with them. That the scripture might be fulfilled which said, "HE WILL NOT QUARREL NOR CRY OUT, NOR WILL ANYONE HEAR HIS VOICE IN THE STREETS."

**Mat 12:20 A BRUISED REED HE WILL NOT BREAK, AND SMOKING FLAX HE WILL NOT QUENCH, TILL HE SENDS FORTH JUSTICE TO VICTORY;**

- **Jesus came not to break or to quench, but to restore and rekindle!** *A bruised reed!* Many of the reeds were very fragile. They will actually bend over with a bruised mark on them where they'd been crushed. But He won't break a bruised reed. Israel was like a bruised reed. He didn't come to break it. The smoking flax, or the smoking wick, He's not going to put it out. He didn't come to confront men who are bruised. He's not out to break them. He's out to restore them. The smoking flax, He doesn't put it out, but seeks to rekindle the flame. There are some people who are sort of like the smoking wick, the flame has gone out, but His purpose isn't to just put it out but it's to rekindle it. To bring that flame once again within your heart!

**Mat 12:21 AND IN HIS NAME GENTILES WILL TRUST."**

- ***In His name Gentiles will trust.*** He shall so show judgment to them, that they will heed and observe what He shows them, and be influenced by it to depend upon Him, to devote themselves to Him, and conform to that judgment.

### **Blasphemy Against the Holy Spirit**

***Mat 12:22 Then one was brought to Him who was demon-possessed, blind and mute; and He healed him, so that the blind and mute man both spoke and saw.***

***Mat 12:23 And all the multitudes were amazed and said, "Could this be the Son of David?"***

- **The Jews believed it was impossible to cast out a demon from any mute. Jesus was doing the works now that were predicted of the Messiah.** He would open the eyes of the blind. He would cleanse the leper. The lame would leap for joy, and the mute would be singing praises unto God. Here is a man possessed with the devil. He is both blind and mute. Jesus heals him! He can now see! He is now speaking! Faced with this undisputable Son of David, evidence of the Messiahship of Jesus, the people were saying, "Isn't this the Son of David", the Messiah, because He was to be a descendant of David?

***Mat 12:24 Now when the Pharisees heard it they said, "This fellow does not cast out demons except by Beelzebub, the ruler of the demons."***

- **Notice that the Pharisees in their jealousy and anger are attributing the work of the Spirit in Christ as being empowered by Satan!** He's in league with Satan. He's doing this through the power of Satan. This man is Satanic.

***Mat 12:25 But Jesus knew their thoughts, and said to them: "Every kingdom divided against itself is brought to desolation, and every city or house divided against itself will not stand.***

***Mat 12:26 If Satan casts out Satan, he is divided against himself. How then will his kingdom stand?***

- **He came against them with clear logic, what you are saying is ridiculous.** You're suggesting that Satan's kingdom is divided, that I'm doing this by the powers of darkness. But then that would mean a division in the kingdom of Satan. It cannot stand if that division takes place!

***Mat 12:27 And if I cast out demons by Beelzebub, by whom do your sons cast them out? Therefore they shall be your judges.***

- **This is their second argument. Exorcism was a common practice in those days.** There seemed to be much demon possession as there are in many foreign countries today. Thus, exorcism was a common practice. Jesus said, "If I am by Beelzebub casting out the devils, then how are your children doing it? They would never say that their own people cast out demons by Beelzebub. It was therefore merely from spite and envy to Christ, that they would own that others cast out devils by the Spirit of God, but suggest that he did it by compact with Beelzebub.
- **They shall be your judges!** In the last judgment, not only every sin, but every aggravation of it, will be brought into the account, will be judged!

***Mat 12:28 But if I cast out demons by the Spirit of God, surely the kingdom of God has come upon you.***

***Mat 12:29 Or how can one enter a strong man's house and plunder his goods, unless he first binds the strong man? And then he will plunder his house.***

- **Jesus is declaring I'm doing this by the Spirit of God.** Notice Jesus is binding the strong man of the house first, and then spoiling his house. This is an excellent example for us. We have here a pattern by Jesus concerning prayer. That through prayer, we bind the strong man of the house. We can bind the works of Satan through prayer. The principalities and powers of darkness are subject unto Jesus Christ!
- **When the disciples came back from their mission, they were rejoicing and saying, Lord, even the devils were subject to us.** They are subject to Jesus Christ. We read in *(Col 2:15) Having disarmed principalities and powers, He made a public spectacle of them, triumphing over them in it.* Through Jesus Christ, we can bind the powers of darkness. Christian service then is just taking the spoils. Often, the problem is that Christians are trying to take the spoils before they have bound the strong man of the house, getting all involved in a works program, rather than laying, first of all, the path of victory through the binding of the powers of darkness. We say we've got a great work to do for God. Let's all go! But, wait a minute. There's a strong man that's going to hinder the work. Let's bind him first. Then, we'll go in and take the spoil!

***Mat 12:30 He who is not with Me is against Me, and he who does not gather with Me scatters abroad.***

- **You are either for Him or you are against Him. You cannot be neutral concerning Jesus Christ.** There is no ground of neutrality. Jesus is so radical and has made such radical statements that it eliminates any thought of Him as just a marvelous teacher, a great philosopher, a remarkable man. He is either the

Son of God, or He is a lunatic and a liar. If you're not for Him, you're against Him! You cannot be neutral. Not to be for Him is to be against Him. That's the heavy thing. Not to be for Him is to be against Him. You say, Well, I'm not really against Him. Yes, you are. He said, if you're not for Him, you're against Him.

- **He who does not gather with Me scatters abroad.** You can't be neutral. Either you're gathering with Him or you are scattering from Him, as evidenced by the Pharisees in their declaration that He was doing this by the power of the devil, even in the face of the indisputable evidence that He is the Messiah. The people were recognizing it and questioning, Is this not the Messiah? Isn't this the Son of David? Because they could not deny the miracle. Here is a man talking! Here is a man able to see! He was blind! He was mute. They cannot deny that. Thus, they have to give some kind of an explanation, How is it then that this man can see and he can talk? Their explanation was, He's doing it by the power of the devil! Rather than believing, rather than acknowledging and saying, we were wrong, surely this is the Messiah! Let us worship Him, they are so opposed to Jesus that they are now saying He's doing it through the power of the devil! Wow!

**Mat 12:31** *"Therefore I say to you, every sin and blasphemy will be forgiven men, but the blasphemy against the Spirit will not be forgiven men.*

- **Here we see the blasphemy of the Holy Spirit,** which is what the Pharisees did in rejecting the clear work of the Spirit in Jesus' miracle and attributing it to the power of Satan!
- **Attributing the works of the Holy Spirit to Satan, rather than to acknowledge that Jesus is the Messiah.** In this, Jesus is pointing out that there is a sin, a terrible sin! He calls it the blasphemy of the Holy Spirit! That is such a heinous, horrible sin that there is *not forgiveness for this sin, neither in this age or in the age to come.* You can speak against Jesus and it will be forgiven. You cannot speak, and continue to speak against the Holy Spirit and it be forgiven.

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

- **The unforgivable sin! The Holy Spirit is the One who convicts you of your sin.** He is the One who points you to Jesus Christ as the solution and the answer. He is the One who draws you to Jesus Christ. That is the work of the Holy Spirit: to exalt Jesus, to draw people to Jesus that they might be saved from their sin. In **(Heb 10:29)** *Of how much worse punishment, do you suppose, will he be thought worthy who has trampled the Son of God underfoot, counted the blood of the covenant by which he was sanctified a common thing, and insulted the Spirit of grace?*
- **When the Holy Spirit comes to you, convicting you of sin and pointing you to Jesus Christ; if you reject the message of the Holy Spirit to your heart, if you refuse to come to Jesus Christ, God has provided no other means whereby your sins can be forgiven.** Thus, you are rejecting the only means that God has provided for salvation.
- **The longer you reject Jesus Christ, the easier it is to reject Him.** In fact, after rejecting Him so many times, you actually, as He said, you begin to be against Him, you begin to turn against Christ. You have met people who can talk to you rationally on any subject in the world except Jesus. The moment you bring up Jesus, they become totally irrational. Their whole being seems to rebel against Him, which seems to indicate that these people have taken the road towards the unpardonable sin and are far down the path.
- **There will come a time where God's Spirit will cease to strive with the person.** God said to Noah, **(Gen 6:3)** *And the LORD said, "My Spirit shall not strive with man forever, for he is indeed flesh; yet his days shall be one hundred and twenty years."* You can go too far in your opposition and refusal of Jesus Christ. You can say "No" once too often and you will never have another opportunity to accept. The Spirit of God will leave you and there will be no further opportunities or invitations for you to receive Jesus. For each person, there is that final call that God gives. To reject that final call, there is no hope. As in **(Heb 10:26-27)** *For if we sin willfully after we have received the knowledge of the truth, there no longer remains a sacrifice for sins, [27] but a certain fearful expectation of judgment, and fiery indignation which will devour the adversaries. When a person will refuse the proofs that God has set before them, the indisputable evidence, when they reject that, and they have to make some kind of an excuse for how it was done--He's doing it through the powers of Satan--it shows that they have gone down that path too far.* Therefore, as John said, **(Joh 12:39a)** *Therefore they could not believe.*
- **Someone never exposed to Christ's divine power and presence might reject Him in ignorance and be forgiven, if the unbelief gives way to genuine repentance.** Even a Pharisee such as Saul of Tarsus could be forgiven for speaking "against the Son of Man" or persecuting His followers, because his unbelief stemmed from ignorance. But those who know His claims are true and reject Him anyway, sin "against the Holy Spirit," because it is the Holy Spirit who testifies of Christ and makes His truth known to us. No forgiveness is possible for these Pharisees who witness His miracles firsthand, know the truth of His

claims, and still blaspheme the Holy Spirit, because they have already rejected the fullest possible revelation.

- **How can I know if I have in fact blasphemed the Holy Spirit?** The fact that if I desire Jesus at all shows that I am not guilty of this sin. However, if I reject and continue in rejection of Jesus, it hardens me against Him, putting me on the path of a full and final rejection of Him, which is the unforgiveable sin.

### **A Tree Is Known by Its Fruit**

**Mat 12:33** *"Either make the tree good and its fruit good, or else make the tree bad and its fruit bad; for a tree is known by its fruit.*

**Mat 12:34** *Brood of vipers! How can you, being evil, speak good things? For out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaks.*

- **Here they were, as He said in (Mat 23:27)** *"Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you are like whitewashed tombs which indeed appear beautiful outwardly, but inside are full of dead men's bones and all uncleanness.* You may say these religious platitudes. While in public you may have all of the appearance of being so holy and so righteous. There are so many people that in public they are one thing but in private, there's something totally different. They say the right things in public, so careful about what they say, but you get them behind the closed doors, and the kind of filthy language that is used, is really tragic. Jesus is, He said, Look, what's in your heart is going to come out in your mouth. Maybe not in public. But, in private, it's going to be there.

**Mat 12:35** *A good man out of the good treasure of his heart brings forth good things, and an evil man out of the evil treasure brings forth evil things.*

- **How do you talk?** It is not how you talk when you're in church! It is how you talk when you're home or when you're on the job. There the truth is revealed.

**Mat 12:36** *But I say to you that for every idle word men may speak, they will give account of it in the day of judgment.*

**Mat 12:37** *For by your words you will be justified, and by your words you will be condemned."* **every idle word.** The most seemingly insignificant sin, even a slip of the tongue, carries the full potential of all hell's evil. (Jas 3:6) *And the tongue is a fire, a world of iniquity. The tongue is so set among our members that it defiles the whole body, and sets on fire the course of nature; and it is set on fire by hell.* No infraction against God's holiness is a small matter. Each person will ultimately give account of such indiscretion. Nothing indicates a bad tree more truly than the bad fruit of speech! God judges a person by his words, because they reveal the state of his heart.

### **The Sign of Jonah**

**Mat 12:38** *Then some of the scribes and Pharisees answered, saying, "Teacher, we want to see a sign from You."*

- **We want to see a sign from You.** He has just done a sign that they cannot explain. The blind man is there and he's talking. He was mute, now, he's talking, He's just done this sign, but now! Then they got angry, saying, You did it by the power of the devil. They said, *, we want to see a sign from You.*
- **Though Christ is always ready to hear and answer holy desires and prayers, yet he will not** gratify corrupt lusts and humors. Those who *ask amiss, ask, and have not.* Signs were granted to those who desired them for the confirmation of their faith, as to Abraham and Gideon; but were denied to those who demanded them for the excuse of their unbelief.

**Mat 12:39** *But He answered and said to them, "An evil and adulterous generation seeks after a sign, and no sign will be given to it except the sign of the prophet Jonah.*

- **They were adulterous in as much as they had turned their backs on God.** Israel, considered as the wife of God, married unto God, was to be faithful unto God. But they kept committing spiritual fornication and adultery in that they were making and worshipping all kinds of other gods. Thus, they were guilty of spiritual adultery.
- **Jesus' resurrection was the greatest and the final sign!** *No sign will be given to it except the sign of the prophet Jonah* The greatest sign that Jesus was the Messiah was His resurrection from the dead! That's the greatest sign. Greater than all of the miracles, greater than walking on water, greater than turning water to wine and all of these other things! The greatest and the final sign that He was indeed the Messiah, was His resurrection from the dead!
- **On another occasion when they asked for a sign, He said, "Destroy this temple and in three days, I will rebuild it."** They answered and said, We've been building on this thing for forty-seven years, and you

say you're going to rebuild it in three days. Who do you make yourself to be? But Jesus, the scriptures said, was referring to the temple of His body.

- **Now Jesus said, "No man takes My life from Me, I give My life for I have the power to lay My life down and I have the power to take it up again."** That is quite a claim. Here, He is declaring again, the resurrection will be the sign, the greatest sign. The only sign that He will give to them will be the resurrection.

***Mat 12:40 For as Jonah was three days and three nights in the belly of the great fish, so will the Son of Man be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth.***

- **There is a place in the scripture that is called "Hades" in the Greek, or "Sheol" in the Hebrew.** It is translated "grave" and translated "hell." Jesus here locates Hades for us, in the heart of the earth. In Luke chapter 16, Jesus will tell the story of a rich man who fared sumptuously every day. Also, of the poor man who was brought daily at his gate, covered with sores, eating the scraps that fell from the rich man's table. How that the poor man died and was carried by the angels into Abraham's bosom. The rich man also died and in Hades lifted up his eyes, being in torment, seeing Lazarus there being comforted, cried, Father Abraham, have mercy on me! Send Lazarus to me that he may take his finger, dip it in water and touch my tongue, for I am tormented in this heat.
- **Heart of the earth.** Paul tells us in (*Eph 4:8-9*) *Therefore He says: "WHEN HE ASCENDED ON HIGH, HE LED CAPTIVITY CAPTIVE, AND GAVE GIFTS TO MEN."* [9] (*Now this, "HE ASCENDED"—what does it mean but that He also first descended into the lower parts of the earth?*) Jesus, "is the same One who first of all descended into the lower parts of the earth and when He ascended, He led the captives from their captivity."
- **Peter tells us in (Act 2:27) FOR YOU WILL NOT LEAVE MY SOUL IN HADES, NOR WILL YOU ALLOW YOUR HOLY ONE TO SEE CORRUPTION.** Peter affirms that "This same Jesus has God raised from the dead." David was not prophesying of himself but prophesying of the Messiah to come. "And we bear witness God did not leave His soul in hell, neither did He allow the Holy One to see corruption, but this same Jesus, God has raised." When Jesus died for our sins, He descended into Hades.
- **Prior to the death of Jesus Christ on the cross whereby He put away our sins.** Abraham and the rest of the Old Testament saints could not enter into heaven, because it was impossible that the blood of bulls or goats could put away sin. All they could do was cover them. God had a compartment in Hades in which Abraham was comforting those who died in faith of the promise of God that He was going to send His Messiah. When Jesus died, He descended into hell and preached to the souls in prison. When He rose, He led the captives from their captivity because now through His death, access was made for them to enter into heaven. He led the captives from their captivity. He opened the prison doors to those that have been found. He set the captives free. Now, "To be absent from this body is to be present with the Lord." Jesus is saying, this is the sign, "As Jonah was three days and three nights in the belly of the great fish, so shall the Son of man be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth."

***Mat 12:41 The men of Nineveh will rise up in the judgment with this generation and condemn it, because they repented at the preaching of Jonah; and indeed a greater than Jonah is here.***

- **The men of Nineveh shall rise in judgment. There is a day of the resurrection of the unjust who will stand before God, (Rev 20:12) And I saw the dead, small and great, stand before God; and the books were opened: and another book was opened, which is the book of life: and the dead were judged out of those things which were written in the books, according to their works.**

***Mat 12:42 The queen of the South will rise up in the judgment with this generation and condemn it, for she came from the ends of the earth to hear the wisdom of Solomon; and indeed a greater than Solomon is here.***

- **Jesus is declaring Himself greater than Jonah, greater than Solomon, and the people of Nineveh will rise.** They had only one preacher – Jonah! He hated them, having only one message, which was that of judgment. He was thrilled to give it to them! "Forty days and you're going to get wiped out." Forty days and comes destruction. Well, might the men of Nineveh rise with this generation and condemn it because they repented at the preaching of Jonah. And now there is a much greater gospel we have to share than Jonah! He didn't have any gospel. He only had a message of judgment, and they repented! We have the gospel, the good news, God loves you and will forgive you every sin and every trespass if you will but just receive Jesus Christ as your Savior and as your Lord.
- **The Queen of the south came from the uttermost parts to hear the wisdom of Solomon. Indeed, a greater than Solomon is here.**



### Return of an Unclean Spirit

*Mat 12:43 "When an unclean spirit goes out of a man, he goes through dry places, seeking rest, and finds none.*

*Mat 12:44 Then he says, 'I will return to my house from which I came.' And when he comes, he finds it empty, swept, and put in order.*

*Mat 12:45 Then he goes and takes with him seven other spirits more wicked than himself, and they enter and dwell there; and the last state of that man is worse than the first. So shall it also be with this wicked generation."*

- **Now Jesus teaches concerning unclean spirits.** In looking into the spirit realm, these demonic spirits desire to be incorporated in a body. You remember when Jesus met the demoniacs at Gadara, and He asked, Who are you? They answered, Legion because we are many. They requested that they not be sent to the pit before their time. They were given leave. They entered into the swine that stampeded down into the sea. They seem to be restless, going through the wilderness places, dry places, seeking rest by being incorporated in a body, finding none, no place, no body to inhabit.
- **It would seem there has to be an opening on the part of man before he can be possessed by a demonic spirit,** such as a person has to be dabbling in the occult, into witchcraft, occultic kind of things, Ouija boards or seances or things of this nature, before you can be inhabited by a demon. Notice that he comes back. He finds the house from which he was ordered out all clean. There has been no replacement. It's just an empty religion. They haven't filled the house with Jesus.
- **Now when Jesus is dwelling within you, it's impossible that a demon could dwell within you, co-dwell with Jesus.** Neither Satan or Jesus is willing to share his children with another! That's just an inconsistency. *(2Co 6:14-15) Be ye not unequally yoked together with unbelievers: for what fellowship hath righteousness with unrighteousness? and what communion hath light with darkness? [15] And what concord hath Christ with Belial? or what part hath he that believeth with an infidel?* The answer is none! But a person who only comes for the perks, for the benefits, creates a void in himself, if he does not receive Jesus Christ and the indwelling of the Holy Spirit. He makes himself susceptible to a worse condition than he had to begin with. Even so, Jesus said, it shall be also with this wicked generation. You had the opportunity, you've heard. Now, you're going to be much worse off because of your rejection than you would have been had you never heard.

### Jesus' Mother and Brothers

*Mat 12:46 While He was still talking to the multitudes, behold, His mother and brothers stood outside, seeking to speak with Him.*

*Mat 12:47 Then one said to Him, "Look, Your mother and Your brothers are standing outside, seeking to speak with You."*

*Mat 12:48 But He answered and said to the one who told Him, "Who is My mother and who are My brothers?"*

*Mat 12:49 And He stretched out His hand toward His disciples and said, "Here are My mother and My brothers!*

*Mat 12:50 For whoever does the will of My Father in heaven is My brother and sister and mother."*

- **Who is My mother and who are My brothers?"** This scripture would trouble me greatly if I was depending on Mary to intercede for me. I would be a little worried. Jesus, your mother is out here, she wants to talk to You. Who's my mother? Who are my brothers? Those that do the will of God, the same are my mother, my brother.
- **The beautiful thing is that "There is one God and one mediator between God and man, and that's the man Christ Jesus,"** and we have direct access to Jesus Christ. Paul said, *"(Col 2:18) Let no one cheat you of your reward, taking delight in false humility and worship of angels, intruding into those things which he has not seen, vainly puffed up by his fleshly mind.* Oh, I'm not worthy to go to Jesus. I'll come in the back door by His mother. The argument is that every good son will surely listen to his mother, so go to Mary. Let her go to Jesus for you. Or go to one of the saints. This is what Paul was actually speaking about in Colossians 2, I'm not worthy to come to Jesus, I'll just come to Saint Stephen.
- **None of us are worthy to come to Jesus, of course not.** But that isn't the issue. He's invited you to come. "Come unto Me, all you that labor and are heavy laden." Because of His invitation to come, it would be wrong for me to try to go around by some other means. The door is open for you to come unto the Father, directly through the Son. So, Jesus looks upon you who are doing His will as His mother, as His brother, and as His sister.
- **Notice how much He loves you! Jesus is not saying that natural affection is to be put off,** or that, under

pretense of religion, we may be disrespectful to parents, or unkind to other relations; but *everything is beautiful in its season*. The less duty must stand by, while the greater is done! **The nearest relations must be comparatively hated, that is, we must love them less than Christ! Our duty to God must have the preference!**

### **"THE UNPARDONABLE SIN" –**

- **There is a sin for which there is no forgiveness**, neither in this world or the world to come. Jesus speaks of it here in the text. How terrible when God says let them alone, don't pray for them anymore, I will not hear you, I have given them up.
- **What the unpardonable sin is not.** It is not adultery. It is not murder. **It is a pattern of saying no to Christ, of continuing to reject the witness of the Holy Spirit!** The rejection of the Spirit's witness to your heart that Jesus is the Messiah, He died for your sins. Is the starting on the path that will lead to the unpardonable sin.
- **The continued rejection of Jesus Christ as your Savior will ultimately bring you to the place where God's Spirit will cease to strive with you. If you die rejecting Jesus Christ, there is no forgiveness, not in this world or in the world to come. The only charge will be your refusal to accept Jesus Christ as your Savior.**
- **They would not believe!** First unbelief; Then vehement opposition; Eventually they could not believe!

**What are we to do?**

- **Get right with God! Repent of your sin! Surrender all to Him! (Isa 55:6) Seek the LORD while He may be found, Call upon Him while He is near. (Heb 4:7b) "TODAY, IF YOU WILL HEAR HIS VOICE, DO NOT HARDEN YOUR HEARTS."**
- **I surrender all to You! I surrender!**

### **Closing Song:**

**I SURRENDER** Hillsong Worship (4:08)

*Here I am Down on my knees again Surrendering all Surrendering all And find me here Lord as  
You draw me near Desperate for You Desperate for You I surrender  
Drench my soul As mercy and grace unfold I hunger and thirst I hunger and thirst  
With arms stretched wide I know You hear my cry Speak to me now Speak to me now  
I surrender I surrender I wanna know You more I wanna know You more  
I surrender I surrender I wanna know You more I wanna know You more  
Like a rushing wind Jesus breathe within Lord have Your way Lord have Your way in me  
Like a mighty storm Stir within my soul Lord have Your way Lord have Your way in me  
Like a rushing wind Jesus breathe within Lord have Your way Lord have Your way in me  
Like a mighty storm Stir within my soul Lord have Your way Lord have Your way in me  
Lord have Your way Lord have Your way in me  
I surrender I surrender I wanna know You more I wanna know You more*

### **Closing Prayer:**

Assignment for next week: Read *Matthew Chapter 13*

**The Behold He Comes Bible Prophecy Conference Livestream Event (9/11/21)**

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