

STUDYING THE BOOK OF MATTHEW
IN SMALL GROUP DISCUSSIONS

Lesson 47 - Lord of the Sabbath - Matthew 12:1-14

Read the following verses in the New International Version or a translation of your choice. Then discuss the questions that follow. Questions should be studied by each individual before your discussion group meets.

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MT 12:1 At that time Jesus went through the grainfields on the Sabbath. His disciples were hungry and began to pick some heads of grain and eat them. [2] When the Pharisees saw this, they said to him, "Look! Your disciples are doing what is unlawful on the Sabbath."

MT 12:3 He answered, "Haven't you read what David did when he and his companions were hungry? [4] He entered the house of God, and he and his companions ate the consecrated bread--which was not lawful for them to do, but only for the priests. [5] Or haven't you read in the Law that on the Sabbath the priests in the temple desecrate the day and yet are innocent? [6] I tell you that one* greater than the temple is here. [7] If you had known what these words mean, 'I desire mercy, not sacrifice,' you would not have condemned the innocent. [8] For the Son of Man is Lord of the Sabbath."

MT 12:9 Going on from that place, he went into their synagogue, [10] and a man with a shriveled hand was there. Looking for a reason to accuse Jesus, they asked him, "Is it lawful to heal on the Sabbath?"

MT 12:11 He said to them, "If any of you has a sheep and it falls into a pit on the Sabbath, will you not take hold of it and lift it out? [12] How much more valuable is a man than a sheep! Therefore it is lawful to do good on the Sabbath."

MT 12:13 Then he said to the man, "Stretch out your hand." So he stretched it out and it was completely restored, just as sound as the other. [14] But the Pharisees went out and plotted how they might kill Jesus.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Lesson 47 - Lord of the Sabbath - Matthew 12:1-14

560. Where were Jesus and His disciples when they were eating? (12:1)

561. What difference did the day of the week make? (12:1)

562. What activity were the disciples involved in? (12:1)

563. How did the Pharisees react when they saw the disciples eating? (12:2)

564. What biblical precedent did Jesus cite to justify the actions of His followers? (12:3-4)
565. What, according to Jesus, did the law say about priests and the temple and the Sabbath? (12:5)
566. Over what honored religious symbol did Jesus claim superiority? (12:6)
567. What did Jesus accuse the Pharisees of failing to understand? (12:7)
568. What did Jesus claim about Himself? (12:8)
569. Where did Jesus go after clashing with the Pharisees? (12:9)
570. What miracle did Jesus perform in the synagogue? (12:10, 13)
571. How did Jesus justify His actions? (12:11-12)
572. What was the response of the Pharisees? (12:14)

Lesson 48 - God's Chosen Servant - Matthew 12:15-21

MT 12:15 Aware of this, Jesus withdrew from that place. Many followed him, and he healed all their sick, [16] warning them not to tell who he was. [17] This was to fulfill what was spoken through the prophet Isaiah:

MT 12:18 "Here is my servant whom I have chosen,
the one I love, in whom I delight;
I will put my Spirit on him,
and he will proclaim justice to the nations.

MT 12:19 He will not quarrel or cry out;
no one will hear his voice in the streets.

MT 12:20 A bruised reed he will not break,
and a smoldering wick he will not snuff out,
till he leads justice to victory.

MT 12:21 In his name the nations will put their hope."

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Lesson 48 - God's Chosen Servant - Matthew 12:15-21

573. How did Jesus respond to the hostility of the Pharisees? (12:15)
574. Who accompanied Jesus? (12:15)
575. What did Jesus do for the people who followed Him? (12:15)
576. What did Jesus instruct the people He helped to do? (12:16)
577. Who had foretold this event? (12:17)
578. In the prophetic passage quoted here, how did God identify the Messiah? (12:18)
579. What message did the prophecy say Christ would preach? (12:18)
580. How was the personality of Christ described by Isaiah? (12:19)
581. How did Isaiah predict people would respond to this coming servant of God? (12:19)
582. According to Isaiah, what type of ministry would the Messiah have? (12:20)
583. According to the prophet Isaiah, how would the nations ultimately respond to Christ? (12:21)

Lesson 49 - Jesus and Beelzebub - Matthew 12:22-37

MT 12:22 Then they brought him a demon-possessed man who was blind and mute, and Jesus healed him, so that he could both talk and see. [23] All the people were astonished and said, "Could this be the Son of David?"

MT 12:24 But when the Pharisees heard this, they said, "It is only by Beelzebub,* the prince of demons, that this fellow drives out demons."

MT 12:25 Jesus knew their thoughts and said to them, "Every kingdom divided against itself will be ruined, and every city or household divided against itself will not stand. [26] If Satan drives out Satan, he is divided against himself. How then can his kingdom stand? [27] And if I drive out demons by Beelzebub, by whom do your people drive them out? So then, they will be your judges. [28] But if I drive out demons by the Spirit of God, then the kingdom of God has come upon you.

MT 12:29 "Or again, how can anyone enter a strong man's house and carry off his possessions unless he first ties up the strong man? Then he can rob his house.

MT 12:30 "He who is not with me is against me, and he who does not gather with me scatters. [31] And so I tell you, every sin and blasphemy will be forgiven men, but the blasphemy against the Spirit will not be forgiven. [32] Anyone who speaks a word against the Son of Man will be forgiven, but anyone who speaks against the Holy Spirit will not be forgiven, either in this age or in the age to come.

MT 12:33 "Make a tree good and its fruit will be good, or make a tree bad and its fruit will be bad, for a tree is recognized by its fruit. [34] You brood of vipers, how can you who are evil say anything good? For out of the overflow of the heart the mouth speaks. [35] The good man brings good things out of the good stored up in him, and the evil man brings evil things out of the evil stored up in him. [36] But I tell you that men will have to give account on the day of judgment for every careless word they have spoken. [37] For by your words you will be acquitted, and by your words you will be condemned."

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Lesson 49 - Jesus and Beelzebub - Matthew 12:22-37

584. What kind of man did Jesus heal? (12:22)
585. How did the onlookers respond? (12:23)
586. What kind of reaction did the Pharisees have to the miracle Christ did? (12:24)
587. How did Jesus show the Pharisee's argument to be illogical? (12:25-26)
- 588.. What did Jesus say to show the significance of His ability to drive out demons? (12:28)
589. What rationale did Jesus give for casting out demons? (12:29)
590. What criteria did Jesus give for determining who supported and opposed Him? (12:30)
591. What did Jesus discuss with the Pharisees? (12:31-32)
592. What did Jesus say a tree's "fruit" reveals? (12:33)
593. What harsh name did Jesus call the Pharisees? Why? (12:34)
594. What did Jesus claim a person's words reveal? (12:34-35)

595. What will every single person do on the day of judgment? (12:36-37)

Lesson 50 - The Sign of Jonah - Matthew 12:38-45

MT 12:38 Then some of the Pharisees and teachers of the law said to him, "Teacher, we want to see a miraculous sign from you."

MT 12:39 He answered, "A wicked and adulterous generation asks for a miraculous sign! But none will be given it except the sign of the prophet Jonah. [40] For as Jonah was three days and three nights in the belly of a huge fish, so the Son of Man will be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth. [41] The men of Nineveh will stand up at the judgment with this generation and condemn it; for they repented at the preaching of Jonah, and now one* greater than Jonah is here. [42] The Queen of the South will rise at the judgment with this generation and condemn it; for she came from the ends of the earth to listen to Solomon's wisdom, and now one greater than Solomon is here.

MT 12:43 "When an evil* spirit comes out of a man, it goes through arid places seeking rest and does not find it. [44] Then it says, 'I will return to the house I left.' When it arrives, it finds the house unoccupied, swept clean and put in order. [45] Then it goes and takes with it seven other spirits more wicked than itself, and they go in and live there. And the final condition of that man is worse than the first. That is how it will be with this wicked generation."

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Lesson 50 - The Sign of Jonah - Matthew 12:38-45

596. Who approached Jesus and demanded a sign? (12:38)

597. What did a hostile group of people ask Jesus to do? (12:38)

598. What kind of people did Jesus say asked for additional miraculous signs? (12:39)

599. How did Jesus respond to the request for a sign? (12:39)

600. To what proof from history did Jesus point? (12:39-40)

601. How did Jesus compare Himself to Jonah? (12:40)

602. Who did Jesus say would one day stand and judge His generation? Why? (12:41)

603. Why will the "men of Nineveh" be in a position to judge? (12:41)

604. To what example from history did Jesus point as evidence for His identity? (12:42)

605. How did "the Queen of the South" respond to Solomon? (12:42)
606. How did Jesus compare Himself to Solomon? (12:43)
607. What example did Jesus use to show the importance of ridding one's life of evil attitudes and filling one's life with love for God? (12:43-45)
608. What did Jesus warn would happen to those who refused to open themselves up to the Lord? (12:45)

Lesson 51 - Jesus' Mother and Brothers - Matthew 12:46-50

MT 12:46 While Jesus was still talking to the crowd, his mother and brothers stood outside, wanting to speak to him. [47] Someone told him, "Your mother and brothers are standing outside, wanting to speak to you."

MT 12:48 He replied to him, "Who is my mother, and who are my brothers?" [49] Pointing to his disciples, he said, "Here are my mother and my brothers. [50] For whoever does the will of my Father in heaven is my brother and sister and mother."

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Lesson 51 - Jesus' Mother and Brothers - Matthew 12:46-50

609. What was Christ doing when His mother and brothers came to speak to Him? (12:46)
610. Who was in the crowd? (12:38-46)
611. Who came to find Jesus? Why? (12:46)
612. Why did Jesus' family want to see Him? (12:46)
613. How did Jesus find out about His visitors? (12:47)
614. What two rhetorical questions did Jesus pose when He heard about His family's arrival? (12:48)
615. How did Jesus answer His own questions? (12:49)
616. What makes a person a member of Jesus' family? (12:50)
617. Who can become a member of Jesus' family? (12:50)
618. How did Jesus refer to God? (12:50)

