

Matthew Lesson 12

12:38-45 The Sign of Jonah

Jesus answers the request for a sign with very harsh words. He can do that because he is God and can see the true motive of unbelief and sin in their hearts. We cannot see the true motives of people all the time. We cannot be as harsh as Jesus unless people are open and obvious in their sins.

What is sad about the request for signs is that it suggests that Jesus was not giving them signs, that it is his fault for not proving he is from God. But look at all the miracles Jesus did. The Pharisees cannot blame Jesus if they do not want to identify him as the Messiah and do not worship him as God. People today like to say it is the Lord's fault for their unbelief: "If only God would appear to me, then I would believe in Him." Yet each day the Lord gives blessings and keeps people safe all over the world.

The Pharisees show that they understood what Jesus tells them here when we read Matthew 27:63 and the Pharisees request a guard for the tomb of Jesus.

Again in verses 41-42 Jesus uses people of the past to show the people of his day how wrong they are for their unbelief and how horrible it will be for them if they keep on rejecting Jesus.

1. In verses 43-45 Jesus explains the life of a person whom the Lord helps out by getting rid of evil inside that person, but the person does not ask the Lord to live in his or her heart. What is the end result for a person who does not ask the Lord to live in their heart?
2. When the Lord lives in our heart that means we study his Word and live according to what God tells us in his Word. This lesson teaches us that either we are filled with the Lord or filled with evil. There is no in between. What would you like to be filled with?

12:46-50 Jesus' Mother and Brothers

This event happens in Nazareth where Jesus grew up. His family is not sure how to treat Jesus. They are uneasy because of all the attention Jesus is getting and they know people are calling him the Messiah. They were not willing to call Jesus the Messiah and all that this title meant. So they want to take Jesus from his work and remove him from the people. His family also may have been worried because they knew he had enemies.

3. How do you know Mary and Joseph had other children after Jesus was born?
4. According to verse 50 who are the people who belong to the family of Jesus?

5. Are you a member of the family of Jesus? How? (See Galatians 3:26.)

13:1-23 The Parable of the Sower

What is a parable? A parable is an story from earthly life with a spiritual “main point” or meaning to it. Jesus used parables because the stories used familiar experiences for the people and it allowed him to compare a truth or condition on earth, from everyday life, with a truth about God, from heaven and spiritual life.

Every parable teaches a basic truth. Jesus did not tell parables so that we get distracted by the details. Always look for the basic truth when hearing one of Jesus’ parables.

6. Why did Jesus teach using parables? (See verse 11)
7. How could someone receive the knowledge to understand what Jesus is teaching in a parable?

Matthew 13:12—“Whoever has will be given more, and he will have an abundance. Whoever does not have, even what he has will be taken from him.”

8. How do the words of Jesus in verses 16 and 17 give comfort to us if we are afraid we may not understand what Jesus is teaching to us in a parable?
9. Verse 19 gives us the topic that Jesus is teaching about in the Parable of the Sower. What spiritual or heavenly truth is taught to us in this parable?
10. How can this parable help you and me?
11. What kind of prayer does this parable make you want to pray to the Lord?
12. According to verse 23 what can you and I expect from each other?