

# Matthew 12

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## Matthew 12

Question: "Lord, who is my neighbor?" This question can be found in Luke 10:29 .

This leads to the parable of the Good Samaritan, where Jesus taught love, compassion, and kindness to all people, regardless of their background or social status.

Best response: Luke 10:30-37: Jesus tells the story of a man who was attacked by robbers and died. A priest and a Levite passed by and did not take care of him. But a Samaritan, out of compassion, took care of the man, took care of his wounds, and made sure that he was cared for in the inn. The parable ends with Jesus asking, "Which of these three do you think is the neighbor of the man who fell into the hands of the robbers?" The lawyer replied, "The one who had mercy on him." Then Jesus said to him, "Go and do likewise."

Matthew 22:37-40

Jesus said to him, "Love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind. This is the first and greatest commandment. The second is similar, that is, to love your neighbor as yourself. These two commandments are the sum total of the law and all the teachings of the prophets."

John 13:34-35

Jesus said to his disciples, "I give you a new commandment, that you love one another." As I have loved you, so you must love one another. And if you have love for one another, by this all people will know that you are my disciples. "

Matthew 12

Verse 1: "At that time Jesus passed through the wheat field on the Sabbath. And when his disciples were hungry, they plucked up ears of wheat and ate them." "At that time" refers to the time of God, the time of God's work, the time of God's coming, and God specifically chose to work at that time. The persecution of Jesus by political and religious leaders became more and more concrete, culminating in the framing and crucifixion of Jesus (9:1-34). When we commemorate Jesus' silent ministry of redemption in solitude without any understanding, we can feel the length, breadth, height, and depth of Jesus' love.

The "Sabbath" refers to the seventh day of the week, from sunset on Friday to sunset on Saturday. This day is regarded as a sacred day of rest. God rested on the seventh day of creation and commanded His followers to rest on this day as well, to stop all work and focus on spirituality and family. God is merciful, and He values human life over the letter of the law. Jesus went on to tell the Pharisees that human needs were greater than form. Man is not justified by the law, but by faith. One cannot just observe the law and not be sensitive to human needs. Heavenly Father is a loving and merciful God.

The Lord of the Sabbath gives rest, and in the kingdom of darkness, where everything is bound by the law, and now the King of heaven has come to do something new, and he has made known the heart of God, and the spirit of the law, and the purpose of the law, "I love mercy rather than sacrifice." The King of Heaven will bring people into the kingdom of heaven by bringing them to rest before Him. He loves to give true rest, not to the rules of the Sabbath. Jesus told the healed not to give him a name, because he came to save souls, to bring the kingdom of heaven to the fullness of renewal, to bring people out of Satan's kingdom into the light. Jesus humbly fulfilled His mission with love. And Jesus' purpose was to preach the gospel, not the miracles themselves. Although miracles were nothing more than an aid to the gospel testimony, the Pharisees continued to do everything in their power to find the inadequacies of Jesus, which were motivated by evil. Therefore, the saints today should live a mature life of faith that practices love.

Jesus told the Pharisees that all sins and blasphemys are forgiven, but blasphemy against the Holy Spirit is forgiven. If anyone sins against man or God in word or deed, he can be forgiven if he repents, but he who blasphemes the Holy Spirit, denies Jesus, or even insults the Son of man will never be forgiven. The sin of blasphemy against the Holy Spirit is that the Lord Jesus himself casts out demons by the Holy Spirit. This sin can only be committed on that day. The Lord Jesus came to save people, so everyone who sinned against Him and all other sins can be forgiven. But those who blaspheme the Holy Spirit, who deliberately do not believe and utter blasphemous words, have reached the point of irrepentance, and therefore their sins are unforgivable.

The public reaction to Jesus' authority was so strong that those who did not recognize Jesus as a son of David felt that they should come forward and give another interpretation. It is generally accepted that David's descendants should be the ideal kings and liberators of the Israelites, but Jesus fulfilled the role of healer, and was clearly not the conqueror and ruler Messiah that the public expects; So the masses were puzzled and asked questions in a rhetorical tone, expecting answers. Jesus explained that Jonah was in the belly of the great fish on three days, which was a foreshadowing of his resurrection three days after his death. The kingdom of God is not just a blessed land, but all areas that receive the rule of God. The kingdom of God, through the incarnate Jesus, is not yet complete. In the future, the kingdom of God will come in the fullness of the new heavens and a new earth.

Verse 44 talks about what happened to the unclean spirits and their tactics after they were expelled, but the key is the condition of the house. It is not the inevitable end of the unclean ghost being cast out, but it is implied that if the unclean ghost finds the house empty, he will go back; So don't leave the house

empty. In a spiritual sense, it means that those who have heard the gospel of God but fail to understand it will be more tempted by Satan to continue in the path of sin to perish.

Who is my mother? Who are my brothers: Jesus did not deny his kinship (John 19:26, 27). This statement points out that more important than blood relations is the relationship between the rebirth of the soul and the faith of God. In fact, Jesus formed greater spiritual kinship in order to establish the church through his own death.

We pray

Pray that God will help us not just stop at prayer, but live out the words of Jesus in our lives. We are also to be careful in our words and deeds, to control our tongues, and to ask the Holy Spirit to help us in our words, so that our words may reveal the wisdom of the Lord and help us to be humble in our words and not fall for pride. Praise the Lord with thanks and pray in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ, amen.

Matthew 12

### **Sabbath Questions**

**12** At that particular time Jesus went through the grainfields on the <sup>[a]</sup>Sabbath, and His disciples were hungry and began to pick the heads of grain and eat them. <sup>2</sup> But when the Pharisees saw this, they said to Him, “Look! Your disciples are doing what <sup>[b]</sup>is unlawful on the Sabbath.” <sup>3</sup> He said to them, “Have you not read [in the Scriptures] what David did when he was hungry, he and those who accompanied him— <sup>4</sup> how he went into the house of God, and they ate the <sup>[c]</sup>consecrated bread, which was not lawful for him to eat nor for those with him, but for the priests only? <sup>5</sup> Or have you not read in the Law, that on the Sabbath the priests in the temple break [the sanctity of] the Sabbath and yet are innocent? <sup>6</sup> But I tell you that something greater than the temple is here. <sup>7</sup> And if you had only known what this statement means, ‘I desire compassion [for those in distress], <sup>[d]</sup>and not [animal] sacrifice,’ you would not have condemned the innocent.

### **Lord of the Sabbath**

<sup>8</sup> For the Son of Man is Lord of the Sabbath.”

<sup>9</sup> Leaving there, He went into their synagogue. <sup>10</sup> A man *was there* whose hand was withered. And they asked Jesus, “Is it lawful *and* permissible to heal on the Sabbath?”—*they asked this* so that they might accuse Him *and* bring charges into court. <sup>11</sup> But He said to them, “What man is there among you who, if he has only one sheep and it falls into a pit on the Sabbath, will not take hold of it and lift it out? <sup>12</sup> How much more valuable then is a man than a sheep! So it is lawful *and* permissible to do good on the Sabbath.” <sup>13</sup> Then He said to the man, “Reach out your hand!” The man reached out and it was restored, as normal *and* healthy as the other. <sup>14</sup> But the Pharisees went out and conspired against Him, *discussing* how they could destroy Him.

<sup>15</sup> Being aware of this, Jesus left there. Many followed Him, and He healed all of them [who were sick], <sup>16</sup> and warned them not to tell [publicly] who He was. <sup>17</sup> *This was* to fulfill what was spoken by the prophet Isaiah:

“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 proclaim justice to the nations.

19

“He will not quarrel, nor cry out loudly;  
Nor will anyone hear His voice in the streets.

20

“A battered reed He will not break,  
And a smoldering wick He will not extinguish,  
Until He leads justice to victory.

21

“And in His name the Gentiles (all the nations of the world) will hope [with confidence].”

### **The Pharisees Rebuked**

<sup>22</sup> Then a demon-possessed man who was blind and mute was brought to Jesus, and He healed him, so that the mute man both spoke and saw. <sup>23</sup> All the people wondered in amazement, and said, “Could this be the Son of David (the Messiah)?” <sup>24</sup> But the Pharisees heard it and said, “This man <sup>[e]</sup>casts out demons only by [the help of] Beelzebul (Satan) the prince of the demons.”

<sup>25</sup> Knowing their thoughts Jesus said to them, “Any kingdom that is divided against itself is being laid waste; and no city or house divided against itself will [continue to] stand. <sup>26</sup> If Satan casts out Satan [that is, his demons], he has become divided against himself *and* disunited; how then will his kingdom stand? <sup>27</sup> If I cast out the demons by [the help of] Beelzebul (Satan), by whom do your sons drive them out? For this reason they will be your judges. <sup>28</sup> But if it is by the Spirit of God that I cast out the demons, then the kingdom of God has come upon you [before you expected it]. <sup>29</sup> Or how can anyone go into a strong man’s house and steal his property unless he first overpowers *and* ties up the strong man? Then he will ransack *and* rob his house.

### **The Unpardonable Sin**

<sup>30</sup> He who is not with Me [once and for all on My side] is against Me; and he who does not [unequivocally] gather with Me scatters.

<sup>31</sup> “Therefore I say to you, every sin and blasphemy [every evil, abusive, injurious speaking, or indignity against sacred things] will be forgiven people, but <sup>[f]</sup>blasphemy against the [Holy] Spirit will not be forgiven. <sup>32</sup> Whoever speaks a word against the Son of Man will be forgiven; but whoever speaks against the Holy Spirit [by attributing the miracles done by Me to Satan] will not be forgiven, either in this age or in the *age* to come.

### **Words Reveal Character**

<sup>33</sup> “Either make the tree good and its fruit good, or make the tree bad and its fruit bad; for the tree is recognized *and* judged by its fruit. <sup>34</sup> You brood of vipers, how can you speak good things when you are evil? For the mouth speaks out of that which fills the heart. <sup>35</sup> The good man, from his [inner] good treasure, brings out good things; and the evil man, from his [inner] evil treasure, brings out evil things. <sup>36</sup> But I tell you, on the day of judgment people will have to give an accounting for every careless *or* useless word they speak. <sup>37</sup> For by your words [reflecting your spiritual condition] you will be

justified *and* acquitted of the guilt of sin; and by your words [rejecting Me] you will be condemned *and* sentenced.”

### **The Desire for Signs**

<sup>38</sup> Then some of the scribes and Pharisees said to Him, “Teacher, we want to see a sign (attesting miracle) from You [proving that You are what You claim to be].” <sup>39</sup> But He replied and said to them, “An evil and adulterous generation [that is morally unfaithful to God] craves *and* demands a [miraculous] sign; but no sign will be given to it except the sign of the prophet Jonah; <sup>40</sup> for just as Jonah was three days and three nights in the belly of the sea monster, so will the Son of Man be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth. <sup>41</sup> The men of Nineveh will stand up [as witnesses] at the judgment against this generation, and will condemn it because they repented at the preaching of Jonah; and now, something greater than Jonah is here. <sup>42</sup> The Queen of the South (Sheba) will stand up [as a witness] at the judgment against this generation, and will condemn it because she came from the ends of the earth to listen to the wisdom of Solomon; and now, something greater than Solomon is here.

<sup>43</sup> “Now when the unclean spirit has gone out of a man, it roams through waterless (dry, arid) places in search of rest, but it does not find it. <sup>44</sup> Then it says, ‘I will return to my house from which I came.’ And when it arrives, it finds *the place* unoccupied, swept, and put in order. <sup>45</sup> Then it goes and brings with it seven other spirits more wicked than itself, and they go in and make their home there. And the last condition of that man becomes worse than the first. So will it also be with this wicked generation.”

### **Changed Relationships**

<sup>46</sup> While He was still talking to the crowds, it happened that His mother and brothers stood outside, asking to speak to Him. <sup>47</sup> Someone said to Him, “Look! Your mother and Your brothers are standing outside asking to speak to You.” <sup>48</sup> But Jesus replied to the one who told Him, “Who is My mother and who are My brothers?” <sup>49</sup> And stretching out His hand toward His disciples [and all His other followers], He said, “Here are My mother and My brothers! <sup>50</sup> For <sup>[g]</sup> whoever does the will of My Father who is in heaven [by believing in Me, and following Me] is My brother and sister and mother.”

Matthew 12 is a pivotal chapter in the Gospel of Matthew, as it contains key teachings of Jesus and his interactions with religious leaders, which highlight deeper theological and spiritual insights. The chapter addresses issues related to the law, the Sabbath, miracles, and the rejection of Jesus' ministry by religious authorities.

Here is a detailed overview and analysis of the significant sections of **Matthew 12**:

#### **1. Jesus and the Sabbath (12:1-14)**

- **Verses 1-8:** Jesus' disciples pluck grain on the Sabbath, and the Pharisees accuse them of violating the law. Jesus responds by referencing the actions of King David (1 Samuel 21:1-6), who ate consecrated bread that was not lawful for him to eat, to show that mercy and the spirit of the law are more important than rigid ritual observance. He also declares that He is "Lord of the Sabbath" (verse 8), claiming authority over the law.
- **Verses 9-14:** Jesus heals a man with a withered hand on the Sabbath, which prompts further outrage from the Pharisees. Jesus responds by teaching that it is lawful to do good on the Sabbath. The chapter ends with the Pharisees plotting to destroy Jesus.

### Theological Thought:

- **Jesus as the Lord of the Sabbath:** Jesus asserts His authority over the Sabbath, emphasizing that the Sabbath was made for human benefit, not as a burdensome rule (Mark 2:27). He challenges the Pharisees' legalistic interpretation of the law and calls people to prioritize mercy over sacrifice (Matthew 12:7).
- **Mercy over Sacrifice:** Jesus highlights God's preference for mercy over ritual sacrifice, affirming that God desires the heart and the right intentions behind actions, not mere adherence to legalistic observances (Matthew 12:7).

### Spiritual Influence:

- **Freedom in Christ:** This passage encourages believers to approach God's commands with a spirit of grace, love, and compassion. It invites Christians to rest in Christ, who fulfills the true purpose of the law.
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## 2. Jesus Heals a Demon-Possessed Man (12:22-30)

- **Verses 22-23:** Jesus heals a man who is blind and mute, and the crowds wonder if He could be the Messiah. Some Pharisees, however, accuse Him of casting out demons by the power of Beelzebul (the prince of demons).
- **Verses 24-30:** Jesus rebukes the Pharisees, saying that a kingdom divided against itself cannot stand. He asserts that He casts out demons by the Spirit of God, not by Satan's power. He also warns that the unpardonable sin is to blaspheme the Holy Spirit (verses 31-32).

### Theological Thought:

- **Blasphemy Against the Holy Spirit:** Jesus teaches about the unforgivable sin—the blasphemy against the Holy Spirit—indicating that it is a willful and persistent rejection of God's work through the Holy Spirit (Matthew 12:31-32). This sin is not simply a momentary lapse but a hardened heart that continually resists God's grace and calling.
- **The Role of the Holy Spirit:** Jesus emphasizes that His power to cast out demons and perform miracles is by the Spirit of God. The Holy Spirit's role in empowering Jesus' ministry underscores the unity between the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit in the work of salvation.

### Spiritual Influence:

- **Warning Against Hardening the Heart:** This passage calls Christians to be sensitive to the work of the Holy Spirit and to avoid resisting His prompting. It encourages openness to God's transformative power and highlights the danger of spiritual blindness and rejection of God's grace.
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## 3. The Tree and Its Fruit (12:33-37)

- **Verses 33-37:** Jesus teaches that a tree is known by its fruit, and a good tree produces good fruit, while a bad tree produces bad fruit. He also says that people will give account for every careless word they speak, and by their words, they will be justified or condemned.

### **Theological Thought:**

- **The Heart's Role in Actions:** Jesus emphasizes that a person's actions and words reveal the state of their heart. A transformed heart leads to good deeds and words, while a heart full of sin produces harmful actions (Matthew 12:34-35). This teaches that true righteousness is not about external conformity but a change in the inner person.
- **Words Matter:** The warning about careless words points to the weight and responsibility of speech, as words can reveal the inner motivations of the heart. It highlights the importance of living with integrity and speaking truthfully.

### **Spiritual Influence:**

- **The Need for Heart Transformation:** The passage challenges believers to examine their hearts and motivations, recognizing that true change comes from a relationship with Christ and the indwelling of the Holy Spirit. It encourages careful thought and speech, as our words have the power to either build up or tear down.
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## **4. The Sign of Jonah (12:38-42)**

- **Verses 38-42:** The Pharisees and scribes demand a sign from Jesus to prove His authority. Jesus responds by saying that no sign will be given except the "sign of Jonah." He compares His death and resurrection to Jonah's three days in the belly of the fish, indicating that His resurrection will be the ultimate sign. Jesus also refers to the repentance of the people of Nineveh at Jonah's preaching and the Queen of Sheba's seeking wisdom from Solomon, showing that they will stand in judgment against this generation for rejecting Jesus.

### **Theological Thought:**

- **The Resurrection as the Ultimate Sign:** The "sign of Jonah" points to Jesus' death, burial, and resurrection as the definitive sign of His messianic identity. This is a key aspect of Christian theology: the resurrection is the foundation of Christian faith and the ultimate proof of Jesus' divine authority.
- **Repentance and Judgment:** The call for repentance in this passage emphasizes that knowledge of Jesus requires a response. Those who heard Jesus' message and rejected it are likened to the people of Nineveh, who repented at Jonah's preaching. The rejection of Jesus' message brings judgment.

### **Spiritual Influence:**

- **The Urgency of Repentance:** This passage underscores the importance of responding to the gospel with repentance and faith. It reminds believers of the eternal significance of Christ's resurrection and the need to heed His call while it is still available.
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## **5. The Return of an Unclean Spirit (12:43-45)**

- **Verses 43-45:** Jesus tells a parable about an unclean spirit that leaves a person and later returns with seven other spirits more wicked than itself, finding the person empty. This illustrates the danger of a heart that has been cleaned but not filled with the Holy Spirit.

#### **Theological Thought:**

- **The Danger of Spiritual Emptiness:** Jesus warns that simply cleaning up one's life or moral behavior is insufficient if the heart is not filled with the Holy Spirit. True transformation involves not only removing sin but also inviting God's presence and guidance.
- **Spiritual Vigilance:** The passage calls believers to be vigilant in their spiritual lives, ensuring that their hearts are continually filled with the Holy Spirit and are not left open to evil influences.

#### **Spiritual Influence:**

- **Holistic Spiritual Renewal:** This teaching encourages Christians to pursue more than external behavior change—it calls for complete spiritual renewal that involves a deep connection with God and reliance on the Holy Spirit.
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### **6. True Family of Jesus (12:46-50)**

- **Verses 46-50:** Jesus redefines family in spiritual terms. When His mother and brothers come to speak to Him, He declares that His true family are those who do the will of His Father in heaven.

#### **Theological Thought:**

- **Spiritual Family:** Jesus emphasizes that the family of God is defined not by bloodlines but by obedience to God's will. This stresses the priority of spiritual relationships over earthly ones, where the bond of discipleship to Jesus takes precedence.

#### **Spiritual Influence:**

- **Inclusive Community:** This passage invites believers into a deeper spiritual family, where the church is not just a community of individuals but a collective body that shares in the will of God and the mission of Christ.
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### **Conclusion: Theological Thoughts and Spiritual Influence**

- **Jesus' Authority:** Throughout Matthew 12, we see Jesus' divine authority over the law, the Sabbath, and the spiritual realm, affirming His identity as the Messiah.
- **Mercy and Righteousness:** Jesus redefines righteousness by focusing on mercy, compassion, and inner transformation rather than mere legalistic observance.
- **Spiritual Vigilance:** Believers are called to guard their hearts, rely on the Holy Spirit, and bear good fruit in their lives, with a focus on repentance, humility, and obedience to God's will.
- **The Resurrection and Judgment:** The resurrection of Jesus is the central sign of His messianic mission, and people are urged to respond to this truth with repentance and faith.



Matthew 12 challenges Christians to move beyond external religious observance into a deeper relationship with God through Jesus, characterized by love, mercy, and true spiritual transformation.