



Matthew

Lesson 12

As the last Old Testament prophet, John the Baptist had heralded the coming of Jesus. At the current time of Jesus ministry, John sits in a prison cell potentially waiting for his death at the hands of Herod. In his imprisonment he keeps up with the latest events, especially the activity of Jesus. Because of all the confusion surrounding the identity of Jesus, whether for John's assurance or for his disciples' sake, John sends his disciples to get reassurance from Jesus regarding His distinctiveness as Messiah. Jesus' answer to the question "Are you the Expected One, or shall we look for someone else?" uniquely identifies His ministry as being very different than just a prophet or righteous

man. His answer also contrasts what most thought would be the description of the Messiah. "...the blind receive sight, the lepers are cleansed, and the deaf hear, and the dead are raised up, and the poor have the poor have the gospel preached to them..." "Although this is a direct quote from Isaiah 35 about God's promise to restore Israel, they didn't see this as the focus of the coming military commander and chief to rescue and return the nation to the fortunes and dominion of Davidic empire. But Jesus' mission wasn't to restore the Kingdom of David, He was going to usher in and establish the Kingdom of Heaven.

Read Chapter 12



The Torah is most widely known as the five books of Moses. It is the whole context of Jewish laws and traditions. The Talmud, which is the most vital manuscript of the conventional Jewish religion, is the collection of rabbinical laws, law decision, and comments on the Law of Moses (Torah). It is the basic tool for learning the ethics behind the customs of their religion. The Mishnah is a compilation of oral traditions giving further instruction on how to live out the Law or Torah. (The Torah was compiled and put in written form by Rabbi Judah haNasi, also known as Judah the Prince, in AD 200. Jewishhistory.org.) It was divided into six sections: Seeds, laws concerning cultivation and the soil; Festivals, concerning regulations of the Sabbath and holy days; Women, addressing marriage, divorce and other family issues; Damages, mainly regarding compensation on damages; Holy things, rules regarding sacrifices and Temple worship; Purification, rituals regarding the subject of cleanness and purity. (Difference Between.net and Archeological Study Bible)

1. *What principles regarding the Sabbath does Jesus make clear in vs. 1-12 (See also Luke 13:15-16)? How did the Pharisees respond to Jesus' teaching?*

2. *In what ways have Jesus' actions been a fulfillment of Isaiah's prophecy (vs. 17) given in vs. 18-21?*
3. *In response to Jesus' healing the demon-possessed man who was blind and dumb, who did the multitudes think Jesus might be in contrast to who the Pharisees accused Him of being?*
4. *Explain Jesus' counter to the Pharisees' reasoning in vs. 25-33.*



*The name Beelzebub ("god of flies") or Beelzebub ("god of dung") is an ancient one. Beelzebub was a Philistine deity referred to in 2 Kings 1:2-4 that became associated with Satanic idolatry to such an extent that the name later became synonymous with Satan.
~Teaching the Word Ministries; Dr. Paul M. Elliot*

5. *Can you give a reference in Scripture where Satan healed someone or cast out a demon?*
6. *What do you think Jesus means by blasphemy against the Holy Spirit, and why is it an unforgivable sin?*
7. *As part of His response to the Pharisees' accusations and His warnings to them in vs. 32-37, Jesus refers to the importance of the words we speak. What were the Pharisees' words (vs.24) revealing about their hearts? What is your response to this warning?*

8. *What did the scribes and Pharisees want from Jesus? Why should the miracles Jesus performed already be a sufficient sign for them? Explain His answer to them. Vs. 38-42*



The Greek word for “sign” is ‘semeion’ which means “a mark, token, or miracle with a spiritual end or purpose. In the plural, miracles which lead to something out of and beyond themselves; finger—marks of God, valuable not so much for what they are as for what they indicate of the grace and power of the Doer.” Complete Word Dictionary

9. *Give 5 statements regarding the nature of demons or demon possession from verses 43-45. What had Jesus said previous to these verses that He would be using this example to explain? What do you think He was saying to them?*

10. *Since Jesus was never rude or dismissive to anyone, what do you think was His meaning in His response to His family coming to talk to Him? Vs. 46-50*

Prayer requests:

Group time notes:
