

Matthew 12:22-50

For whoever does the will of My Father in heaven is My brother and sister and mother.

Matthew 12:50

PRAY: As I study Matthew 12:22-50, Father please teach me the importance of hearing, seeing, and doing Your Word and will.

Journal your prayer here:

PREVIEW: In Matthew 12:22-50, the Pharisees blaspheme the Holy Spirit and commit the unpardonable sin. By the examples of Jonah and the queen of the South, we'll learn from their mistakes. We'll also learn how to be Jesus' brother, sister, and mother.

Matthew 12:22-50 Outline:

Pharisees Blaspheme the Holy Spirit - Read Matthew 12:22-30

Pharisees Commit the Unpardonable Sin - Read Matthew 12:31-37

Pharisees Demand a Sign - Read Matthew 12:38-45

Jesus and the True Brethren - Read Matthew 12:46-50

Pharisees Blaspheme the Holy Spirit - Read Matthew 12:22-30

Matthew 12:22-30 (NKJV)

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.

23 And all the multitudes were amazed and said, “Could this be the Son of David?”

24 Now when the Pharisees heard it they said, “This fellow does not cast out demons except by Beelzebub, the ruler of the demons.”

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.**

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

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

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

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.

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

1. A demon-possessed man was brought before Jesus and He healed him. Besides being demon-possessed, what other physical conditions did this man suffer from (v. 22)?

2. What did the demon-possessed man do after Jesus healed him (v. 22)? What was the response of the multitudes to this healing (v. 23)?

3. PROPOUND: The title “Son of David” was a popular Jewish title for whom? (See Matthew 1:1; 9:27 and 21:9.)

4. What was the response of the Pharisees toward the healing of the demon-possessed man (v. 24)? (See also Matthew 9:34, Mark 3:22, and Luke 11:15.)

5. **PRODUCE:** One of Jesus' divine powers is demonstrated in the first five words of verse 25. What power is that? (See also Psalm 139:2, Matthew 9:4, and Luke 6:8.) How should this affect your life? (See 2 Corinthians 10:5.)

6. **PROPOUND:** Read Jesus' statements in Matthew 12:25-26. Why is spiritual unity in your home so important? (See also 2 Corinthians 6:14.)

7. Jesus states that the Pharisees' accusation (v. 24) is illogical (vv. 25-26) and hypocritical (v. 27). He asks that if His casting out of demons is by the Spirit of God, then what should the Pharisees acknowledge?

8. **PROCEED:** In Matthew 12:30, Jesus states that whoever is not with Him is against Him, and whoever doesn't gather with Him scatters. How can you tell whether or not you are with Him and are gathering? (See also Matthew 12:50.)

Pharisees Commit the Unpardonable Sin - Read Matthew 12:31-37

Matthew 12:31-37 (NKJV)

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.

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.

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.

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

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.

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.

37 For by your words you will be justified, and by your words you will be condemned.”

9. Which sins does Jesus say will be forgiven? Which sin will not be forgiven (v. 31)?

10. How does Jesus describe blaspheming against the Spirit (v. 32)?



11. Jesus refers to trees that bear either good or bad fruit (v. 33). What do the trees in the Bible often represent? (See Psalm 1:1-3; 92:12, Jeremiah 17:8, Matthew 3:10, and Jude 12.)

12. Jesus addressed the Pharisees harshly (v. 34). A “brood” is a family of offspring and a “viper” is a snake: a picture representing Satan (see Genesis 3:1). Jesus addressed the Pharisees very similarly in John 8:44. Who did He say they were in that passage? (See also Matthew 3:7; 23:33.)

13. PRACTICE: How did Jesus say a good man brings forth good things? Describe the process. (See Proverbs 4:23, Colossians 3:1-2, and 2 Corinthians 10:5) How are you putting this process into practice?

14. PROCLAIM: Read Matthew 12:36-37. Why should we be very careful with what we say? Share your thoughts with the group. (See also Ephesians 4:29, Proverbs 4:24, Proverbs 12:18, Proverbs 15:4, and Proverbs 16:23-24.)

15. PROPOUND: Jesus said, “For by your words you will be justified” (v. 37). What words do we need to say to be justified? (See Matthew 10:32, Romans 10:9-13, 1 Corinthians 12:3, and Philippians 2:11.)

Pharisees Demand a Sign - Read Matthew 12:38-45

Matthew 12:38-48 (NKJV)

38 Then some of the scribes and Pharisees answered, saying, “Teacher, we want to see a sign from You.”

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.

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.

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.

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.

43 “When an unclean spirit goes out of a man, he goes through dry places, seeking rest, and finds none.

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.

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.”

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

47 Then one said to Him, “Look, Your mother and Your brothers are standing outside, seeking to speak with You.”

48 But He answered and said to the one who told Him, “Who is My mother and who are My brothers?”

16. The scribes and Pharisees wanted to see a sign from Jesus (v. 38). How does Jesus describe the generation that seeks after a sign (v. 39)?

17. What sign did Jesus say would be given to that generation (v. 39)?

18. How did Jesus relate the sign of the prophet Jonah with the sign that He gave for the scribes and Pharisees (v. 40)?

19. PROPOUND: Jesus said “the men of Nineveh will rise up in judgment with this generation and condemn it” (v.41). Why will the generation that Jesus spoke to be condemned by the men of Nineveh?

20. PROTECT: Jesus uses the men of Nineveh and the queen of the South (Sheba - 1 Kings 10:1-13) as examples of people who heard, saw, and were changed. How should we also hear and change?
(See Matthew 7:24-27, John 20:29, and Luke 11:28.)

21. Jesus gives some insight into the spiritual realm (vv. 43-35). Where does He say an unclean spirit goes when he goes out of a man (v. 43)?
(See also Job 1:7 and 1 Peter 5:8.)

22. Where did the unclean spirit return to and with whom did he return (vv. 44-45)?

23. PROPOUND: Jesus used the illustration of the unclean spirit departing from and returning to a man to demonstrate how it would be for the generation that saw and heard His miracles without repenting. What would their final condition be due to their lack of repentance?

Jesus and the True Brethren - Read Matthew 12:46-50

Matthew 12:46-50 (NKJV)

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

47 Then one said to Him, “Look, Your mother and Your brothers are standing outside, seeking to speak with You.”

48 But He answered and said to the one who told Him, “Who is My mother and who are My brothers?”

49 And He stretched out His hand toward His disciples and 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.”

24. PROPOUND: Read Matthew 12:46-47. Where are Jesus’ mother and brothers in relation to where Jesus is? (See also John 7:5.) How is their physical location significant?



25. **PROMOTE:** Read Matthew 12:49-50. Who does Jesus say are His mother and brothers?

26. **PROPOUND:** Earlier in Matthew 12, Jesus said to a man, “Stretch out your hand.” He did this to demonstrate to the Pharisees that He is the Messiah. Now Jesus stretches out His hand. Toward whom does He stretch out His hand (v. 49)? Why is this significant?

27. How can you be certain that you are one of Jesus’ brothers, sisters, or mothers (v. 50)?

PROCESS: Review what you’ve learned in Matthew 12:22-50. Highlight what the Lord has shown you so you can share it with the group.

PRAY: Father, thank You for teaching me how to be Your brother, sister, and mother, by hearing and doing Your word!

Journal your prayer here: