

Matthew 12:38-50

- **REVIEW...**
 - FIRST - The Presentation of the King – **Matthew 1-7**
 - SECOND – The Ministry of the King – **Matthew 8-18**
 - Laying Low...
 - After challenging the SABBATH - Jesus KNEW the PHARISEES were at a breaking point...
 - So He attempted stay away - but HUGE multitudes followed him so He healed them...
 - One man was demon possessed - both BLIND and MUTE - and Jesus HEALED him!
 - Unforgiveable Sin...
 - The people began to ask - could this be the Son of David [Messianic title]
 - The PHARISEES were quick to correct them - NO - Jesus cast out demons by BEELZEBUB...
 - But Jesus pointed out the FLAW in their logic - satan was not at war with himself...
 - Jesus cast out demons by the POWER of the Spirit - proving the Kingdom of God had come...
 - The PHARISEES knew that - but were in danger of the UNFORGIVEABLE sin...
 - Being convicted by the SPIRIT to believe i Jesus - but rejecting the ONLY way to be SAVED!
- **1ST – SEEKING A SIGN... vs. 38-42**
 - 1st - Challenging Jesus... vs. 38
 - Scribes...
 - Then some of the scribes and Pharisees answered saying:
 - In response to the STRONG rebuke from Jesus - UNFORGIVABLE sin...
 - Some of the SCRIBES joined in with the PHARISEES to challenge Jesus...
 - SCRIBES [γραμματεῖς] - were the intellectuals of their day [PHD professors]
 - They would NOT have had much in common with PHARISEES [religious]
 - BUT they had ONE thing that UNTIED them - they did NOT like Jesus!
 - A sign...
 - Teacher - we want to see a sign from You!
 - Not willing to acknowledge WHO Jesus really was - the CHRIST...
 - They gave him the neutral title of TEACHER [Διδάσκαλε] - to not give Him too much credit...
 - What they DESIRED [θέλω] was for Jesus to give them a SIGN [σημεῖον]
 - IRONIC because Jesus had just HEALED a man who was both BLIND and MUTE...
 - There was NO sign that Jesus could give that would convince them...
 - He could have done a THOUSAND miracles and they still would NOT have believed...
 - The problem was NOT with Jesus – the problem was their HEARTS...
 - If they had a relationship with God - they would have KNOWN who Jesus was...
 - But because they did NOT know God - they were looking for a SIGN!
 - If someone does NOT know us – we use an ID to prove who we are...
 - But if we go to a friends house for dinner - they do NOT demand an ID - they KNOW us!
 - If we spend time with Jesus – know Him personally...
 - Then we have NO need to ask Him to PROVE Himself to us...
 - But if we get caught up in life – take our eyes OFF of Jesus - we will begin to DOUBT...
 - If we find we are questioning our Lord – the solution is to spend more time with Him...
 - Get to KNOW Him better - and then we will NOT need to ask for a SIGN!
 - 2nd - Evil Generation... vs. 39
 - Seeking...
 - [Jesus] answered and said to them: An evil and adulterous generation seeks after a sign!
 - Jesus response was to call them an EVIL and ADULTEROUS generation...

- EVIL [πονηρός] - speaking of a heart that is FAR from the LORD...
- ADULTEROUS [μοιχαλίζ] - 7x in NT – used to describe SPIRITUAL adultery!
- In the Old and New Testament – both Israel and Church are likened to a BRIDE...
- And when a BRIDE is NOT faithful to her husband – she is an ADULTERESSES!
- When we are NOT faithful to the Lord – we are guilty of SPIRITUAL adultery...
- And ADULTERY makes us QUESTION the security of our relationship with God...
- It causes us to continually [present] SEEK proof [sign] that God still LOVES us!
- Divided heart...
 - People have an AFFAIR - because they think another person will make them HAPPIER...
 - No one throws away their marriage because they think they will be MISERABLE...
 - In the same way - the only reason someone CHEATS on Jesus...
 - Is because there is something else that they think will make them HAPPIER than God!
 - Beware a divided heart - desiring to FOLLOW Jesus - but FLIRTING with the world...
 - Trying to LOVE this world and the Lord - is CHEATING on Jesus!
 - **James 4:4** - "To be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God."
- o 3rd - Sign of Jonah... vs. 39-40
 - Three Days... vs. 39-40
 - No sign will be given to it except the sign of the prophet Jonah.
 - For as Jonah was three days and three nights in the belly of the great fish.
 - Jesus told the SCRIBES and PHARISEES they would only get the sign of Jonah!
 - God called the Prophet Jonah to go and preach to the nation of Assyria [Nineveh]
 - They were a wicked people who had conquered and persecuted Northern Israel...
 - Jonah KNEW God was GRACIOUS - and would FORGIVE - **Jonah 4:2**
 - Therefore he ran away [Tarshish] – because he wanted God to JUDGE the Assyrians...
 - But God sent a STORM - and Jonah KNEW it was from God...
 - He told the men in the ship to THROW him into the sea to stop the STORM - **Jonah 1:15**
 - Jonah did NOT know God would send a WHALE - he would rather DIE than obey God...
 - But the LORD had a WHALE swallow him - and for THREE days Jonah said NOTHING...
 - Only after THREE days did Jonah cry out to the Lord - and the WHALE vomited him out!
 - Son of Man... vs. 40
 - So will the Son of Man be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth!
 - Jesus would also be THREE days and THREE nights in the GRAVE - **Ephesians 4:9**
 - When Jesus died on the CROSS - dismissed His spirit - **Matthew 27:50**
 - He went down into SHEOL [שְׁאוֹל] - or Abrahams Bosom [paradise] - **Luke 16:22**
 - There He shared the GOOD news to all who had died in FAITH - **Isaiah 61:1**
 - Then He set the CAPTIVES free - because the price for SIN had been paid!
 - Only Sign...
 - This was the ONLY sign Jesus would give to those who did NOT want to believe...
 - The CROSS – and after THREE days – the RESURRECTION...
 - Why the SIGN of Jonah - it is the ONLY one that brings salvation!
 - We might think that if only we [or someone we know] could see a miracle - see Jesus...
 - That would be ALL that was needed in order for them to BELIEVE...
 - But these men saw JESUS - saw a deaf and blind man HEALED - it was NOT enough...
 - What is necessary is the message of the GOSPEL – the Cross of Jesus...
 - People do NOT need to see miracles – they need to hear the WORD of God!
 - **Romans 10:17** - "Faith comes by hearing - and hearing by the Word of God."
- o 4th - Men of Nineveh... vs. 41

- Condemned...
 - 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!
 - Like with Chorazin - Bethsaida - and Capernaum - **Matthew 11:20**
 - Jesus gave TWO more examples of those who would CONDEMN this generation...
 - FIRST - the men of Nineveh will RISE [ἀνίστημι] and CONDEMN them [Day of Judgement]
 - Because they REPENTED [μετανοέω] at the preaching of Jonah...
 - Yet when Jesus - who is greater than Jonah came - this GENERATION did NOT repent!
- Power of the Gospel...
 - Jonah was a UNIQUE prophet because he is the ONLY one NOT called to Israel...
 - At a time when Israel was WICKED - and in desperate need of REPENTANCE...
 - God instead sent the PROPHET to the WICKED people of NINEVEH...
 - Because ISRAEL had refused to listen to many PASSIONATE prophets...
 - Yet Nineveh would REPENT at the half-hearted warning of a REACTANT one!
 - Someone CHOOSING to REPENT has little to do with the one giving the message...
 - Jesus [the WORD] came doing great MIRACLES - and people refused to LISTEN...
 - Jonah [reluctant] came hoping people would NOT listen - and a CITY was saved...
 - It does NOT matter if we think we are a good speaker - all we need to do is share...
 - Because the POWER of the salvation comes from the GOSPEL itself!
 - **Romans 1:16** – “I am not ashamed of the gospel... for it is the power of God to salvation!”
- o 5th - Queen of Sheba... vs. 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!
 - SECOND the QUEEN of Sheba [south] heard about the WISDOM of Solomon - **I King 10:1**
 - She was willing to TRAVEL from the ENDS of the earth to SEE if the stories were true...
 - Therefore On the Day of Judgement - the Great White Throne - **Revelation 20:11**
 - She will RISE [ἐγείρω] and CONDEMN this generation...
 - Because someone far GREATER than SOLOMON was here - and yet they did NOT seek Him!
 - There is an old Keith Green song called: Asleep in the LIGHT...
 - One of the lyrics says - Jesus rose from the GRAVE - but we cannot even get out of BED!
 - Sunday mornings are EARLY - and it is EASY to think NEXT time...
 - The ALARM rings - and we want to get up and READ our Bible - but sleep is so GOOD...
 - How far are we willing to GO - how important to us is it to HEAR from Jesus!
 - **Psalms 63:1** - “O God - You are my God. Early will I seek You!”
- 2ND - SEVEN TIMES... vs. 43-45
 - o 1st - Pharisees... vs. 43
 - When an unclean spirit goes out of a man.
 - He goes through dry places seeking rest - and finds none!
 - As Jesus was CHALLENGED about his HEALING of the demon possessed man...
 - He goes back to the SUBJECT as an ILLUSTRATION of the STATE of the nation of Israel...
 - UNCLEAN spirit [ἀκάθαρτος] - common term used by Jesus to describe DEMONS...
 - When he is CAST out of a man - he seeks [present] a new HOME!
 - FIVE hundred years before Jesus - the nation of Israel had become very WICKED...
 - As a result God allowed Nebuchadnezzar [Babylon] to conquer them - 586 B.C.
 - God even allowed the FIRST Temple to be DESTROYED [תִּשְׁעָה בָּאֵב [תשעה באב]
 - Because they people would come to the TEMPLE - to worship other gods - **Ezekiel 8**
 - Therefore they spent SEVENTY years in captivity – before God let them return - **Jeremiah 25:11**

- Zerubbabel [king] and Jeshua [priest] brought FIFTY thousand back to Jerusalem - **Ezra 2:2**
- And the PHARISEES were formed AFTER the return from CAPTIVITY!
- o 2nd - External... vs. 44
 - Empty house...
 - Then [the unclean spirit] says - I will return to my house from which I came.
 - And when he comes - he finds it empty - swept - and put in order!
 - Since the UNCLEAN spirit could not find another house - he goes back to the HOUSE he left...
 - He finds it CLEAN - and DECORATED [κοσμέω] - but most importantly EMPTY!
 - White Washed...
 - The purpose of the PHARISEES was to CLEAN up the HOUSE of Israel...
 - The problem was they were ONLY worried about EXTERNAL...
 - But they did not address the HEART - so in the end the JEWS were worse off than before!
 - **Matthew 23:27** - "You are like whitewashed tombs which indeed appear beautiful outwardly - but inside are full of dead mens bones and all uncleanness [ἀκάθαρτος]."
 - Religion is ONLY concerned about appearances - the EXTERNAL...
 - But God does NOT care about the outside - He is after the HEART - **I Samuel 16:7**
 - He takes us as we are - and by His GRACE - transforms us from the inside out!
 - Jesus inside...
 - Jesus is talking about the NATION of Israel - but there is a PERSONAL application!
 - If someone is FREED from an UNCLEAN spirit...
 - It is ESSENTIAL that they do NOT leave their HEART empty...
 - They NEED to put JESUS in there - so that the spirit CANNOT come back!
 - **II Corinthians 6:17** - "Come out from among them and be separate says the Lord. Do not touch what is unclean [ἀκάθαρτος] and I will receive you."
- o 3rd - Worse off... vs. 45
 - [The unclean spirit] goes and takes with him seven other spirits more wicked than himself.
 - 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!
 - Because the Pharisees did NOT put God in the hearts of the people...
 - They left them VULNERABLE to all kinds of other EVIL and WICKED ideas...
 - The RESULT is that in the END - ISRAEL was more WICKED [κακός] then before the captivity...
 - The spiritual state [indicative] of this GENERATION - they were SEVEN times worse!
 - **Leviticus 26:18** - "I will punish you SEVEN times more for your sins."
 - RELIGION is not the ANSWER - looking good on the OUTSIDE does not help...
 - The only solution to a WICKED heart - is to put Jesus inside of it...
 - And until we are willing to REPENT and come to the LORD - things will only get WORSE!
- 3RD - FAMILY OF GOD... vs. 46-50
 - o 1st - Doubting God... vs. 46
 - Unbelief...
 - While He was still talking to the multitudes...
 - Behold - His mother and brothers stood outside seeking to speak with Him.
 - While Jesus was intensely REBUKING the SCRIBES and PHARISEES...
 - Accusing them of the UNFORGIVABLE sin - and making Israel SEVEN times more WICKED...
 - He was UPSETTING very powerful people - and His life was in DANGER...
 - So His mother and brothers were OUTSIDE [pluperfect] - they came to try and HELP Him...
 - They made the EXCUSE He had gone MAD - and they were there to take Him home!
 - **Mark 3:21** - "They went out to lay hold of Him for they said: He is out of His mind."
 - Hope...

- You would think being raised with Jesus as an older brother – they would all BELIEVE...
 - But NONE of His brothers believed in Jesus BEFORE the resurrection - **John 7:5**
 - Although eventually - both JUDE and JAMES became LEADERS in the church!
 - If we have FAMILY that refused to BELIEVE in Jesus...
 - Do NOT lose heart – Jesus had the SAME problem...
 - Do NOT give up on them – there is always HOPE – they might even become PASTORS!
- o 2nd - True Family... vs. 47-49
- Question... vs. 47-48
 - One said to Him: Your mother and brothers are standing outside seeking to speak with You!
 - He answered and said to the one who told Him: Who is My mother and who are My brothers?
 - Someone from the CROWD called out to Jesus to tell Him about His mother and brothers...
 - We do NOT know WHO it was that TOLD Jesus - but my guess it was a PHARISEE or SCRIBE...
 - They were DONE with His insults - and WANTED Him to go home...
 - But Jesus instead answered this PERSON with a QUESTION...
 - WHO was His MOTHER - and WHO are His BROTHERS!
 - Disciples... vs. 49
 - [Jesus] stretched out His hand toward His disciples and said:
 - Here are My mother and My brothers!
 - Jesus pointed to His DISCIPLES [μαθητῆς] - they were His FAMILY [mother and brothers]
 - This was NOT said to DISCREDIT Mary - or His brothers Jude and James...
 - For they would ALL one day come to FAITH in Jesus and become FAMILY...
 - But TRUE family is found in those who are connected by MORE than just BLOOD!
 - The relationships we have in Church – can often be closer than blood relatives...
 - Because the bond we have in Jesus – is NOT just for this life - it is ETERNAL!
 - Will of God... vs. 50
 - For whoever does the will of My Father in heaven is My brother and sister and mother!
 - The WAY to become a part of the FAMILY of God...
 - Has NOTHING to do with RELIGION - or BAPTISM - or church MEMBERSHIP...
 - It comes from doing the WILL of God the Father...
 - And the WILL of the FATHER - is to put our FAITH in His SON!
 - **John 6:40** - “The will of the Father is all who see His Son... believe in Him.” [NLT]