



THE KING AND HIS KINGDOM

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PART 6: STRONG REACTIONS TO THE KING (MATTHEW CHAPTERS 11, 12)

As Jesus continued his message about the Kingdom of heaven, opposition from Israel's religious elites, specifically the Pharisees, grew to the point of plotting to murder the King of Israel. Their blasphemous remarks were so bad that forgiveness was not possible. Nevertheless, Jesus continued to show that he truly is the Messiah.

I. JOHN THE BAPTIST AND JESUS' MINISTRY IN GALILEE (11)

A. JESUS RESPONDS TO JOHN THE BAPTIST'S QUESTIONS (VV. 1-19).

- John the Baptist asks if Jesus is the Messiah (v. 3).
- Jesus refers John to his miracles (vv. 4-6).
- Jesus speaks highly of John the Baptist (vv. 7-15)

B. THE UNREPENTANT CITIES (VV. 20-24).

- The Galilean cities of Chorazin, Bethsaida and Capernaum reject Jesus and are unrepentant (vv. 20-23).

- These cities will be held accountable on the day of judgment (v. 24).

C. JESUS OFFERS REST FROM RELIGIOUS LEGALISM (VV. 25-30).

- The simple message of God's kingdom is hidden from those who consider themselves to be wise (vv. 25-26).
- Jesus acknowledges his divine self-consciousness of who he is (v. 27).
- Jesus offers an easy yoke (vv. 28-30).

II. JESUS CONFRONTS THE PHARISEES (12)

A. THE PHARISEES ACCUSE JESUS OF VIOLATING THE SABBATH (VV. 1-14).

- Jesus' disciples pick grain on the Sabbath (v.1).
- The Pharisees object (v. 2).
- Jesus accuses the Pharisees of being ignorant of the scriptures (vv. 3-13).
- The Pharisees plot to kill/destroy Jesus (v. 14).

B. JESUS WITHDRAWS TO PREVENT ESCALATION (VV. 15-21).

- Jesus withdraws from there (v. 15).
- He orders his followers to keep quiet about what they had seen (v. 16).
- This was prophesied by Isaiah (v. 17-21).

C. BLASPHEMY OF THE HOLY SPIRIT (VV. 22-32).

- Jesus heals the demon-possessed man (vv. 22-23).
- The Pharisees accuse Jesus of using Beelzebul's (Satanic) power (v. 24).
- Jesus shows the weakness of their thinking (vv. 25-30).
- Blaspheming the Holy Spirit is a sin that will not be forgiven (vv. 31-32).

D. PHARISEES ARE LIKENED TO BAD TREES THAT PRODUCE BAD FRUIT (VV. 33-37).

- Their wicked words reveal the evil within their own hearts (vv. 33-35).
- They will be held accountable on the day of judgment (vv. 36-37).

E. THE PHARISEES AND SCRIBES ASK FOR A SIGN (VV. 38-42).

- Their desire to see a sign expressed another way in which they hoped to reject Him (v. 38).
- Instead, Jesus gave a sign (Jonah) from scripture that they could not

refute (vv. 39-42).

F. THE DANGEROUS CONSEQUENCES OF THEIR REJECTION OF JESUS (VV. 43-45).

- Using the illustration of unclean spirits Jesus shows how they make matters worse over time (43-45a).
- He then says the same thing will happen with this evil generation (v. 45b).

G. THOSE WHO FOLLOW JESUS ARE HIS TRUE FAMILY (VV. 46-50).

- Jesus is told by a man that his mother and (*half*) brothers were outside and wanted to speak to him (v. 46).
- "Someone told him, 'Your mother and brothers are standing outside, wanting to speak to you.'" (v. 47)
- Jesus says his family consists of those who do his Father's will (vv. 48-50).

III. DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Why do you suppose John the Baptist asked if Jesus was the Messiah (11:3)?

2. Like John the Baptist (11:3), Christians today can have spiritual doubts. Is it wrong to have such doubts? Why or why not?

3. What would have caused people to reject Jesus as Messiah even after seeing his miracles (11:20)?

4. What is the “yoke” Jesus referred to in 11:28-30?

(Hint: see <https://www.gotquestions.org/yoke-easy-burden-light.html>)



5. What is the blasphemy of the Holy Spirit (12:22-32)? Can people today commit this unforgivable sin? (Hint: see

<https://www.gotquestions.org/blasphemy-Holy-Spirit.html>).



6. How does Jesus describe those who do his Father's will (12:46-50)? In what ways does this encourage you?

7. Optional leader's question(s).
