

SITTING AT THE FEET OF JESUS

One Greater is Here Matthew 12:1-50

" 'One greater than the temple... Jonah ... [and] Solomon is here.' " Matthew 12:6, 41, 42

Day 1: Read Matthew 12:1-14. (📖* 1 Samuel 21:1-6)

1. Observing the Sabbath is part of the Ten Commandments. What was the purpose of the Sabbath? (Ex. 20:8-11; 23:10-12)
2. What do we learn about the Sabbath from the response by Jesus to the criticism the Pharisees make in verse 2? (vv. 3-8)

What more do we learn about the Sabbath from his response to the Pharisees' question in verse 10? (vv. 11-13) (📖* Col. 2:16, 17)

3. Thus far in Matthew we've seen the religious rulers accuse Jesus of blasphemy (9:3) and attribute his power to Satan (9:34) and plot to kill him (v.14). In your own words describe the Pharisees you see in *this* passage. Are there ways you are tempted to be like them?

Day 2: Read Matthew 12:15-21.

4. Matthew quotes a Messianic prophecy from Isaiah in verses 18-21. Of what previous event in Matthew does verse 18 remind you? (Mt. 3:16, 17) We've seen what the Pharisees think of Jesus; what does this verse of Isaiah's prophecy say about what God the Father thinks of him? (v. 18)

Why is this important for Jesus to know? (📖* Mt. 17:5; 1 Pet. 2:4; 2 Pet. 1:17)

5. Consider what the following verses say about Jesus and the Father's love for us. (Jn. 15:9a; 17:20-23) (📖* John 13:1b; 1 John 3:16) How does knowing this change the way you live and think about yourself and others?
6. What more do we learn about Jesus from the rest of Isaiah's prophecy?

Day 3: Read Matthew 12:22-37.

7. Jesus heals the blind, mute, demon-possessed man. Contrast the opinion of the people with the judgment of the Pharisees towards Jesus following this miracle. (vv. 23, 24)
8. How does Jesus show the absurdity of the Pharisees' position? (vv. 25-29)

* The 📖 symbol identifies verses for further study.

9. Jesus does not mince words when he addresses the Pharisees. What judgments and warnings does he bring against them? (vv. 30-37)
10. Jesus is concerned about more than correcting the error of just the Pharisees. Look at verses 32 and 36; what else is he concerned about?

Day 4: Read Matthew 12:38-45.

11. What do the Pharisees and teachers of the Law tell Jesus they want to see? What have they already seen in this chapter alone? (vv. 13, 22)
12. What sign does Jesus say they will see, even though he declares them to be "A wicked and adulterous generation" (v.39)? To what future event is this sign pointing? (v. 40; Mt. 16:21)
13. What is an important purpose (which the Pharisees have missed) of the miracles Jesus performs? (Jn. 10:24, 25; 20:30, 31)
(📖* Consider how Jesus dealt with John's doubt about who he was in Mt. 11:2-5.)
14. Verses 41-42 paint an interesting picture of the Judgment. Why will "this generation" be condemned? What hope is there for us? (Acts 2:36-39) (📖* Lk. 13:1-5)

Day 5: Skim Matthew 12:1-45.

15. List the numerous titles and descriptions of Jesus from this one chapter alone.

Verse	Description
6	<i>He is greater than the temple</i>
8	
18	
21	
23	
41	
42	

16. Read verses 46-50. Commentator D. A. Carson says, "We do not make ourselves Jesus' close relatives by doing the will of his heavenly Father. Rather, doing the Father's will *identifies* us as his mother and sisters and brothers." (*The Expositor's Bible Commentary: Matthew, Mark, & Luke, Volume 8*, p. 300)

If this is true, what enables us to do the Father's will? (Phil. 2:12-13; Heb. 13:20-21)