

Matthew 12

The Messiahs Qualifications

- Ch.1 – Genealogy/legally
- Ch.2 – 4 Fulfilled prophecy/prophetically, in accordance with Scripture
- Ch.3 – Trinity/deity, acknowledged by godly men
- Ch.4 – Adversary/even enemies acknowledged

The Messiahs Authority

- Ch.5 – Inside matters of the heart
- Ch.6 – Hypocrisy
- Ch.7 – Doing, and not just listening

The Messiahs Power

- Ch.8 – Healing/Deliverance/Nature
- Ch.9 – Forgiveness of sins/Healing/Life

The Messiahs Workers

- Ch. 10 – Jesus commissions the twelve
- Ch. 11 – John the Baptist/Condemnation on unbelief/Rest to the weary and burdened
- Ch. 12 – Spiritual battle/overflow of heart/blasphemy of Spirit

Healing on a Sabbath – which is more important? The Law, or doing good? From God's perspective, He doesn't focus so much on a religious observation of the Sabbath. He delights in mercy, not sacrifice. In other words, He cares more about the matters which are related to His character, than materialistic offerings. Our gold is like tin foil to Him. He doesn't need them. He made it all for goodness sake! The Sabbath was meant for our own good – physical and spiritual rest. To delay healing a man, in order to observe the Sabbath is not demonstrative of God's will and heart towards mankind. So, the incident is revealing of mankind's rules/regulations which block the goodness and majesty of God. And so I ponder, what have I instituted in the Sunday class which blocks the kids from seeing God's goodness and loving character? For if they should see God by removing those barriers, it will accomplish the very essence of what I sought to do by instilling those very rules/regulations. Many times, the intentions may have started well, but at the end, it can clutter up the service and get in the way of the congregants from seeing God.

Pharisees hold council to destroy Jesus – great multitudes followed Jesus when He withdrew from the people, and He healed them all. Jesus never was loved by the establishment. However, those who weren't caught up in their Ivory Towers and world given status were able to see Him as He was. It is interesting how Jesus, who is able to do incredible miracles, doesn't break the pride of mankind, so that they may see. It is a spiritual blindness, which Jesus doesn't cure, for it is one of freewill/man's choice. God seems to respect people's hardness of heart but treats ailments for it may not be of a choice.

Jesus is Beelzebub? – The Pharisees saw Jesus heal a mute, blind man and said it is by the power of demons He does such things. The claim seems absurd, after the fact, but personally, I think it could have been a reasonable response, since they had never truly understood the Messiah's character and mission. The teachings under the teachers at the time would corrupt anyone's understanding of Scripture and Messianic prophecy. They anticipated a political figure, rather than a spiritual Savior. Giving them the benefit of the doubt, they were sincere in their doctrines and understanding of Scripture to denounce such miracles by Jesus who claimed to be God. Should we

see a heretic today perform miracles before our very eyes, the faithful will denounce his miracles and attribute them to the devil. It's the wretched blindness of sin, where they couldn't recognize the Messiah in flesh and unable to put 2 and 2 together. Jesus eloquently replies, a broken house will not stand. Thus, it would make no sense to say such statements. However, if Jesus is not lord of the demons, then He must be the Messiah, who destroys the strongholds of the enemy. Jesus came to break the enemy's grip on His people's lives.

Pharisees ask for a sign – Jesus refers to Jonah, who was in the belly of a whale while running away toward Spain, instead of bringing the message from God to the city of Nineveh. Jonah wanted the Ninevites to perish in their sin and knew God would show His mercy and compassion to them should they accept the message and repent of their sins. So, Jesus says the sign that will be shown is Jesus who would die and rise again 3 days later. Therefore, they should repent, as the Ninevites repented. It is interesting to note, the willingness of Gentiles and broken people to accept the Gospel, while God's chosen people denied the Gospel. Apostle Paul grieved over his people and inspired by the Holy Spirit wrote the Gentiles should accept the mercy of God without gloating over the Jewish people, because the Gentiles were metaphorically grafted into the tree of salvation, and can be removed at any time.

Family of God – Those who were adopted into His family are those who do the will of the Father in heaven. In fact, many who accept the Gospel are disowned and banished from their natural families. The only family they have is the church. Not only that, we are adopted into God's family – He is our Father and we can call true believers brothers and sisters in Christ.