

Matthew 12

Chapter 12 of 28 · 50 Verses · Authorized King James Version

Lord of the Sabbath

¹ At that time Jesus went on the sabbath day through the corn; and his disciples were an hungred, and began to pluck the ears of corn, and to eat.

² But when the Pharisees saw it, they said unto him, Behold, thy disciples do that which is not lawful to do upon the sabbath day.

³ But he said unto them, Have ye not read what David did, when he was an hungred, and they that were with him;

⁴ How he entered into the house of God, and did eat the shewbread, which was not lawful for him to eat, neither for them which were with him, but only for the priests?

⁵ Or have ye not read in the law, how that on the sabbath days the priests in the temple profane the sabbath, and are blameless?

⁶ But I say unto you, That in this place is one greater than the temple.

⁷ But if ye had known what this meaneth, I will have mercy, and not sacrifice, ye would not have condemned the guiltless.

⁸ For the Son of man is Lord even of the sabbath day.

A Man with a Withered Hand

⁹ And when he was departed thence, he went into their synagogue:

¹⁰ And, behold, there was a man which had his hand withered. And they asked him, saying, Is it lawful to heal on the sabbath days? that they might accuse him.

11 And he said unto them, What man shall there be among you, that shall have one sheep, and if it fall into a pit on the sabbath day, will he not lay hold on it, and lift it out?

12 How much then is a man better than a sheep? Wherefore it is lawful to do well on the sabbath days.

13 Then saith he to the man, Stretch forth thine hand. And he stretched it forth; and it was restored whole, like as the other.

14 Then the Pharisees went out, and held a council against him, how they might destroy him.

God's Chosen Servant

15 But when Jesus knew it, he withdrew himself from thence: and great multitudes followed him, and he healed them all;

16 And charged them that they should not make him known:

17 That it might be fulfilled which was spoken by Esaias the prophet, saying,

18 Behold my servant, whom I have chosen; my beloved, in whom my soul is well pleased: I will put my spirit upon him, and he shall shew judgment to the Gentiles.

19 He shall not strive, nor cry; neither shall any man hear his voice in the streets.

20 A bruised reed shall he not break, and smoking flax shall he not quench, till he send forth judgment unto victory.

21 And in his name shall the Gentiles trust.

Blasphemy Against the Holy Spirit

22 Then was brought unto him one possessed with a devil, blind, and dumb: and he healed him, insomuch that the blind and dumb both spake and saw.

23 And all the people were amazed, and said, Is not this the son of David?

24 But when the Pharisees heard it, they said, This fellow doth not cast out devils, but by Beelzebub the prince of the devils.

25 And Jesus knew their thoughts, and said unto them, Every kingdom divided against itself is brought to desolation; and every city or house divided against itself shall not stand:

26 And if Satan cast out Satan, he is divided against himself; how shall then his kingdom stand?

27 And if I by Beelzebub cast out devils, by whom do your children cast them out? therefore they shall be your judges.

28 But if I cast out devils by the Spirit of God, then the kingdom of God is come unto you.

29 Or else how can one enter into a strong man's house, and spoil his goods, except he first bind the strong man? and then he will spoil his house.

30 He that is not with me is against me; and he that gathereth not with me scattereth abroad.

31 Wherefore I say unto you, All manner of sin and blasphemy shall be forgiven unto men: but the blasphemy against the Holy Ghost shall not be forgiven unto men.

32 And whosoever speaketh a word against the Son of man, it shall be forgiven him: but whosoever speaketh against the Holy Ghost, it shall not be forgiven him, neither in this world, neither in the world to come.

A Tree Is Known by Its Fruit

33 Either make the tree good, and his fruit good; or else make the tree corrupt, and his fruit corrupt: for the tree is known by his fruit.

34 O generation of vipers, how can ye, being evil, speak good things? for out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaketh.

35 A good man out of the good treasure of the heart bringeth forth good things: and an evil man out of the evil treasure bringeth forth evil things.

36 But I say unto you, That every idle word that men shall speak, they shall give account thereof in the day of judgment.

37 For by thy words thou shalt be justified, and by thy words thou shalt be condemned.

The Sign of Jonah

38 Then certain of the scribes and of the Pharisees answered, saying, Master, we would see a sign from thee.

39 But he answered and said unto them, An evil and adulterous generation seeketh after a sign; and there shall no sign be given to it, but the sign of the prophet Jonas:

40 For as Jonas was three days and three nights in the whale's belly; so shall the Son of man be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth.

41 The men of Nineveh shall rise in judgment with this generation, and shall condemn it: because they repented at the preaching of Jonas; and, behold, a greater than Jonas is here.

42 The queen of the south shall rise up in the judgment with this generation, and shall condemn it: for she came from the uttermost parts of the earth to hear the wisdom of Solomon; and, behold, a greater than Solomon is here.

The Return of an Unclean Spirit

43 When the unclean spirit is gone out of a man, he walketh through dry places, seeking rest, and findeth none.

44 Then he saith, I will return into my house from whence I came out; and when he is come, he findeth it empty, swept, and garnished.

45 Then goeth he, and taketh with himself seven other spirits more wicked than himself, and they enter in and dwell there: and the last state of that man is worse than the first. Even so shall it be also unto this wicked generation.

Jesus' Mother and Brothers

46 While he yet talked to the people, behold, his mother and his brethren stood without, desiring to speak with him.

47 Then one said unto him, Behold, thy mother and thy brethren stand without, desiring to speak with thee.

48 But he answered and said unto him that told him, Who is my mother? and who are my brethren?

49 And he stretched forth his hand toward his disciples, and said, Behold my mother and my brethren!

50 For whosoever shall do the will of my Father which is in heaven, the same is my brother, and sister, and mother.

HEBREW & GREEK WORD STUDIES

Forgive — ἀφίημι (Aphiemi)

To send away, forgive, release

The Greek **aphiemi** (ἀφίημι) means to send away or release—canceling a debt or dismissing an offense. Jesus taught us to pray 'forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors' (Matthew 6:12).

God — Θεός (Theos)

God

The Greek **Theos** (Θεός) refers to deity, used both for the one true God and false gods. Context determines whether it denotes the Father specifically or the Godhead generally.

Heaven — οὐρανός (Ouranos)

Heaven, sky

The Greek **ouranos** (οὐρανός) denotes heaven—God's throne and the believer's eternal home. Jesus taught His disciples to pray 'Our Father which art in heaven' (Matthew 6:9) and promised to prepare a place there (John 14:2).

Holy — ἅγιος (Hagios)

Holy, sacred, set apart

The Greek **hagios** (ἅγιος) denotes holiness—moral purity and separation unto God. Believers are called 'saints' (hagioi), those set apart for God through Christ's sanctifying work.

Judgment — κρίσις (Krisis)

Judgment, decision

The Greek **krisis** (κρίσις) denotes judgment—evaluation and sentence. All will stand before God's judgment seat (Romans 14:10), and Christ has been appointed Judge of the living and dead (Acts 10:42).

Kingdom — βασιλεία (Basileia)

Kingdom, reign

The Greek **basileia** (βασιλεία) means kingdom—both the realm ruled and the exercise of royal authority. The 'kingdom of God' is central to Jesus' teaching, representing God's saving rule breaking into history.

Law — νόμος (Nomos)

Law

The Greek **nomos** (νόμος) denotes law—particularly the Mosaic law. While believers are not under law but under grace (Romans 6:14), Christ fulfilled the law (Matthew 5:17) and wrote it on believers' hearts (Hebrews 8:10).

Lord — Κύριος (Kurios)

Lord, Master

The Greek **Kurios** (Κύριος) means 'lord' or 'master,' used both for human masters and divinely for God the Father and Jesus Christ. Its application to Jesus affirms His deity, as it translates YHWH in the Septuagint.

Mercy — ἔλεος (Eleos)

Mercy, compassion

The Greek **eleos** (ἔλεος) denotes compassionate mercy—pity for those in distress. God is 'rich in mercy' (Ephesians 2:4), withholding deserved punishment and granting undeserved kindness.

Priest — ἱερεύς (Hiereus)

Priest

The Greek **hiereus** (ἱερεύς) means priest. Christ is our eternal High Priest (Hebrews 4:14) after the order of Melchizedek, and believers form a 'royal priesthood' (1 Peter 2:9).

Prophet — προφήτης (Prophētēs)

Prophet

The Greek **prophētēs** (προφήτης) denotes a prophet—one who speaks forth God's message. Jesus was recognized as 'a prophet mighty in deed and word' (Luke 24:19), fulfilling and surpassing the prophetic office.

Repent — μετανοέω (Metanoeo)

To change one's mind, repent

The Greek **metanoeo** (μετανοέω) means to change one's mind or purpose—a complete transformation of thinking. John the Baptist and Jesus both began their ministries with 'Repent: for the kingdom of heaven is at hand' (Matthew 3:2; 4:17).

Sacrifice — θυσία (Thusia)

Sacrifice, offering

The Greek **thusia** (θυσία) means sacrifice or offering. Christ offered Himself as the perfect sacrifice 'once for all' (Hebrews 10:10), ending the need for repeated animal sacrifices.

Sin — ἁμαρτία (Hamartia)

Sin, missing the mark

The Greek **hamartia** (ἁμαρτία) means sin—missing the target of God's perfection. 'All have sinned and fall short of the glory of God' (Romans 3:23), requiring Christ's atoning sacrifice.

Spirit — πνεῦμα (Pneuma)

Spirit, wind, breath

The Greek **pneuma** (πνεῦμα) means spirit, wind, or breath—the immaterial aspect of persons. The Holy Spirit (Pneuma Hagion) is the third person of the Trinity, dwelling in believers.

Word — λόγος (Logos)

Word, reason, message

The Greek **Logos** (Λόγος) means word, reason, or message—the rational principle underlying reality. John identifies Christ as the eternal Logos: 'In the beginning was the Word' (John 1:1).

CROSS REFERENCES

Matthew 12:1 **Parallel theme:** Deuteronomy 23:25

Matthew 12:2 **Word:** Matthew 12:10; Luke 14:3

Matthew 12:3 **References David:** Luke 6:3. **Parallel theme:** Matthew 12:5; 19:4; 21:16; 22:31; Mark 12:10; 12:26; Luke 10:26

Matthew 12:4 **Parallel theme:** Exodus 25:30

Matthew 12:6 **Parallel theme:** 2 Chronicles 6:18

Matthew 12:7 **Grace:** Matthew 9:13; Hosea 6:6. **Parallel theme:** Matthew 22:29; Psalms 94:21; Proverbs 17:15; Acts 13:27

Matthew 12:8 **References Lord:** Mark 2:28; Luke 6:5. **Parallel theme:** Matthew 9:6

Matthew 12:10 **Parallel theme:** Isaiah 32:6; Luke 11:54; 13:14; 23:2; John 5:3; 8:6; 9:16.

Word: Matthew 12:2; Zechariah 11:17; John 5:10

Matthew 12:11 **Parallel theme:** Deuteronomy 22:4; Luke 14:5

Matthew 12:12

Parallel theme: Matthew 6:26; 10:31; Luke 12:24. **Word:** Mark 3:4; Luke 6:9

Matthew 12:13 **Parallel theme:** Luke 13:13

Matthew 12:14

Parallel theme: Luke 6:11; John 5:18; 10:39; 11:53. **Resurrection:** Mark 3:6

Matthew 12:15 **Parallel theme:** Matthew 10:23; 19:2; Mark 6:56. **References Jesus:** John 7:1; 11:54

Matthew 12:16 **Parallel theme:** Matthew 8:4; 9:30; 17:9; Mark 7:36

Matthew 12:17 **Parallel theme:** Isaiah 42:9; 44:26. **Prophecy:** Matthew 13:35; 21:4; John 12:38

Matthew 12:18

Judgment: Isaiah 42:1. **Spirit:** Isaiah 11:2; Luke 4:18; John 3:34; Acts 10:38. **Parallel theme:** Isaiah 52:13; 1 Peter 2:4

Matthew 12:19 **Parallel theme:** Matthew 11:29

Matthew 12:20

Judgment: Ezekiel 34:16. **Parallel theme:** Psalms 51:17; 147:3; Isaiah 57:15; Luke 4:18; 2 Corinthians 2:7; Revelation 6:2. **Kingdom:** 2 Kings 18:21

Matthew 12:21 **Parallel theme:** Isaiah 11:10; 42:4; Colossians 1:27

Matthew 12:22 **Parallel theme:** Isaiah 29:18; Mark 3:11; Acts 26:18. **Evil:** Matthew 4:24

Matthew 12:23

References David: Matthew 9:27; 21:9. **Parallel theme:** Matthew 9:33; John 4:29

Matthew 12:24 **Evil:** Mark 3:22; Luke 11:15. **Resurrection:** Matthew 9:34

Matthew 12:25 **Parallel theme:** Psalms 139:2; Isaiah 9:21; Jeremiah 17:10; 1 Corinthians 2:11; Galatians 5:15; Hebrews 4:13; Revelation 2:23; 16:19. **References Jesus:** Matthew 9:4; Mark 2:8

Matthew 12:26

Kingdom: Colossians 1:13; Revelation 9:11; 16:10. **Parallel theme:** Matthew 4:10; John 12:31; 14:30; 16:11; 2 Corinthians 4:4; 1 John 5:19; Revelation 12:9

Matthew 12:27 **Parallel theme:** Romans 3:19. **Judgment:** Luke 11:19

Matthew 12:28

Kingdom: Matthew 6:33; 21:31; 21:43; Daniel 7:14; Mark 1:15; Luke 11:20; 16:16; Romans 14:17; Colossians 1:13. **Spirit:** Acts 10:38

Matthew 12:29 **Parallel theme:** Isaiah 49:24; 53:12; 1 John 3:8; 4:4. **Good:** Mark 3:27

Matthew 12:30

Parallel theme: Matthew 6:24; Joshua 24:15; Mark 9:40; Luke 9:50; 11:23; 1 John 2:19

Matthew 12:31

Holy: Luke 12:10; Acts 7:51; Hebrews 6:4; 10:29. **Sin:** Hebrews 10:26; 1 John 1:9; 5:16

Matthew 12:32 **Holy:** Matthew 12:31; Mark 3:29; Luke 12:10; John 7:39. **Parallel theme:** Matthew 11:19; Job 36:13; Mark 10:30; Acts 3:19; Ephesians 1:21; 1 Timothy 1:13

Matthew 12:33

Parallel theme: Matthew 23:26; Ezekiel 18:31; James 3:12; 4:8. **Good:** Amos 5:15; Luke 3:9

Matthew 12:34 **Evil:** Matthew 12:35; 1 Samuel 24:13; Luke 6:45; John 8:44; 1 John 3:10. **Parallel theme:** Matthew 15:18; 23:33; Isaiah 32:6; 59:14. **Good:** Ephesians 4:29

Matthew 12:35 **Parallel theme:** Matthew 13:52; Proverbs 15:4; Colossians 3:16; 4:6. **Evil:** Matthew 12:34; Proverbs 12:6; 15:28. **Good:** Proverbs 15:23; Ephesians 4:29

Matthew 12:36 **Judgment:** Ecclesiastes 12:14; Romans 2:16; Revelation 20:12

Matthew 12:37 **Parallel theme:** Proverbs 13:3

Matthew 12:38

Parallel theme: Luke 11:16; 11:29; John 2:18; 4:48; 6:30; 1 Corinthians 1:22

Matthew 12:39

Prophecy: Matthew 16:4. **Parallel theme:** Isaiah 57:3; Mark 8:38; James 4:4

Matthew 12:40

Parallel theme: Matthew 8:20; 16:21; 17:23; 27:40; Psalms 63:9; Jonah 1:17; John 2:19

Matthew 12:41 **Judgment:** Matthew 12:42; Isaiah 54:17; Romans 2:27. **Parallel theme:** Matthew 12:6; 16:4; 23:36; Jeremiah 3:11; John 3:31; Hebrews 11:7. **Resurrection:** Jonah 1:2

Matthew 12:42 **Parallel theme:** Matthew 3:17; 17:5; 1 Kings 4:29; 5:12; 10:24; Isaiah 7:14; John 1:14; 1:18. **Judgment:** 1 Kings 3:9. **Resurrection:** 1 Kings 3:12

Matthew 12:43 **Parallel theme:** Matthew 8:29; Isaiah 41:18; Acts 8:13. **Kingdom:** Job 1:7; 2:2; 1 Peter 5:8

Matthew 12:44 **Parallel theme:** 1 Corinthians 11:19; 1 John 2:19; 4:4

Matthew 12:45 **Spirit:** Luke 11:26. **Parallel theme:** Mark 5:9. **Evil:** Mark 16:9

Matthew 12:46 **Parallel theme:** Matthew 13:55; Mark 2:21; 6:3; John 2:12; 7:3; 7:5; 7:10;
Acts 1:14; 1 Corinthians 9:5; Galatians 1:19

Matthew 12:48 **Parallel theme:** Matthew 10:37

Matthew 12:49 **Parallel theme:** Mark 3:34

Matthew 12:50 **Parallel theme:** Matthew 25:40; 28:10; Mark 3:35; Luke 8:21; John 6:29;
6:40; 15:14; Romans 8:29; 1 Timothy 5:2; 1 John 2:17

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