

# 2019-2020 Bible Study

## #19

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# Matthew 12

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# Outline for Matthew 12

- **Matthew 12**

- Plucking Grain on the Sabbath
- The Man with a Withered Hand
- God's Chosen Servant
- Jesus and Beelzebul
- A Tree and its Fruit
- The Sign of Jonah
- The Return of the Unclean Spirit
- The True Kindred of Jesus

# Bible Writing Techniques (Cont)

- **One form of Chiasms include:**
  - A series of repetitions that brings our attention to the center

A  
B  
C  
B'  
A'

## **Structure of Matthew's Gospel**

Narrative about Jesus' Baptism, John the Baptist, Jesus being tested –  
Mt 3-4

### **A. Discourse on Sermon on the Mount – Mt 5-7**

Seven beatitudes/blessings

Blessed are the pure of heart for they shall see God

Blessed are the peacemakers for they shall be known as  
the children of God

Narrative on 10 Miracles – Mt 8-9

### **B. Discourse to the 12 Apostles on Authority - Mt 10**

Narrative on the mysteries of the kingdom – Mt 11-12

**C. Discourse on the Seven Parables – Mt 13 most  
important – like meat in a sandwich (bread,  
mustard, meat, mustard, bread) – the parables begin  
here**

Narrative on the Church, First Fruits of the Kingdom of Heaven –  
Mt 14- 17

### **B' Discourse on the Church to the 12 Apostles – Mt 18**

Narrative on the Approaching Advent of the Kingdom of Heaven – Mt  
19-22

### **A' Discourse on the Temple Mount – 23-25**

Woe to you blind guides

Woe to you brood of vipers, you children of hell

# Matthew 12

- **Matthew 12:1-2** *“At that time Jesus went through the grain fields on the sabbath;...what is not lawful to do on the sabbath”*
  - Matthew tells us that suddenly the Pharisees, who were following Him, popped out of the bushes and accused Him of violating the Sabbath
  - At this point, the Pharisees as a group had decided that Jesus was not the Messiah and looked for opportunities to attack, discredit, and destroy Him
  - They attempted to divide His disciples from Him and divide Him from His disciples

# Matthew 12 (Cont)

- But, Jesus and His disciples were not doing anything that violated the Law (Torah)
- The Sabbath Laws were designed to keep the day holy and separate
- They prohibited harvesting (using the sickle) to gather grain on the Sabbath
- But, they did not prohibit all activities on the Sabbath
- The Law allowed one to walk along side of a grain field and pluck and eat some grain
- It even prohibited harvesting any grain that was growing outside the borders of your planting as that grain belonged to the poor and the animals

# Matthew 12 (Cont)

- So, in this passage Jesus was not doing anything wrong
- But, the Pharisees decided to attack Jesus for a number of things including not keeping the tradition of the elders
- Father said that these traditions were like hedges around the law
- The Pharisees attempted to avoid any type of physical activity on the Sabbath
- So, although the Law did not prohibit carrying a piece of wood on the Sabbath, they attacked a man healed by Jesus for carrying his mat on the Sabbath \*



# Matthew 12 (Cont)

- **Matthew 12: 3-13** *“He said to them, ‘Have you not read what David did when he was hungry,...whole like the other”*
  - By this story Jesus was showing the Pharisees that He was:
    - The new David; the son of David
    - The Lord of the Sabbath
    - Greater than the Sabbath laws
    - **1<sup>st</sup> Samuel 21:1-9** <sub>a</sub> \*

# Matthew 12 (Cont)

- **Matthew 12:14-21** *“But the Pharisees went out and took counsel against him, how to destroy him...in his name will the Gentiles hope”*
  - But, the Pharisees were not buying this, and as mentioned earlier, had decided to destroy Him
  - Father pointed out that not every Pharisee was against Him (*Nicodemus*, and later *Gamaliel*) but the movement as a whole were thus inclined
  - Jesus was revealing himself, and Matthew was showing his listeners that He was the Messiah and that the spirit of God was upon Him
  - Further, Jesus directed his listeners not to make him known to fulfil Isaiah's “suffering servant song” (Isaiah 42:1-4) <sub>b</sub>\*

# Matthew 12 (Cont)

- **Matthew 12:22-32** *Then a blind and dumb demoniac was brought to him...either in this age or the age to come*
  - The people were amazed and asked if this could be the son of David, the Messiah?
  - When the people saw these things they were asking who but someone sent by God could do them
  - He was doing them by the spirit of God
  - On the other hand, the Pharisees were saying that he was using demonic powers to do them and to deceive the people
  - Jesus pointed out that their argument was completely illogical

# Matthew 12 (Cont)

- Father said that there were two plans
  - Plan A meant that the people heard the words of Jesus and believed
  - Plan B meant that they would see His works and then believe His words
- The Pharisees offered a third alternative by saying that Jesus was blaspheming, for only God could forgive sins
- But, as we saw earlier, the people believed that God had given this authority (to forgive sins) to men
- This meant that they had attributed the power of Jesus to God

# Matthew 12 (Cont)

- They acknowledged that the power of the Holy Spirit to forgive sins was in Jesus
- But, the Pharisees were articulating a plan C by saying that these things were done by the power of *Beelzebul* (the devil)
- If true, this would have meant that there was no forgiveness of sin, and the people could not repent, or have a change of heart
- After giving his hearers a basic class on logic, Jesus again attempted to reason with them \*

# Matthew 12 (Cont)

- **Matthew 12:33-35** *Either make the tree good and its fruit good... bring forth evil"*
  - He reminds them that they can know a tree by its fruits
  - Then he tells them to look at his works and words and then decide if he represents a good or bad tree
  - It is obvious that the Pharisees were calling him a bad tree (doing these wonderful deeds by the power of *Beelzebul*) \*

# Matthew 12 (Cont)

- **Matthew 12:36-42** *“I tell you... greater than Solomon is here”*
  - Jesus tell his hearers that it is too late since the day of judgment was already done
  - What kind of saying was Jesus giving them?
  - He told them that the only sign they will see will be his death
  - At this point, Jesus is beginning to draw a line in the sand
  - He has spent three years preaching to them and now they have to make a decision whether or not they will accept his words

# Matthew 12 (Cont)

- Many were with him, but there was a large number who were still undecided
- Jesus warned them that it was time to make a decision
- After this last warning, he begins to speak in parables
- Father said that a parable was a mystery
- Here in **Matthew 12**, he told them that the son of man was like the prophet *Jonah*
- Then He reminded them of the preaching of Jonah caused Nineveh to repent
- Further, He spoke of the Queen of the South who came to see Solomon and then told them that He was greater than Solomon! \*



# Matthew 12 (Cont)

- **Matthew 12:43-45** *“When the unclean spirit has gone out of the man,...So shall it be also with this evil generation”*
  - Father suggested that perhaps we should not do exorcisms as from this it seems that the situation got worse
  - Jesus said that “this generation” (the one He was talking to) was filled with demons
  - He was trying to cleanse the people of Israel of this curse
  - Again, he was calling his listeners to make a decision

# Matthew 12 (Cont)

- They could either “walk with Jesus” or remain in Galilee after he departed for Judea
- This meant that if they did not go with him to Jerusalem then the demons He had cast out would return to them
- That generation would be like the possessed man who was seven times worse than before the exorcism \*

# Matthew 12 (Cont)

- **Matthew 12:46-50** *“While he was still speaking to the people...my brother and sister, and mother”*
  - Father said that it was not about genetics that made His mother or brethren important
  - It was because Mary received the word of God and kept it
  - He was saying that any of the brethren who wanted to become a part of the disciples could do so by hearing and accepting His word
  - Further, by the time of the Book of Acts, the early church accepted the brethren into its community after hearing “the word”
  - This discussion will continue in **Matthew 13**

# Matthew 13

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# Outline for Matthew 13

- **Matthew 13**
  - **The Parable of the Sower**
  - **The Purpose of the Parable**
  - **The Parable of the Sower Explained**
  - **The Parable of Weeds among Thorns**
  - **The Parable of the Mustard Seed**
  - **The Parable of the Leaven**
  - **Why Jesus Speaks in Parables**
  - **Jesus Explains the Parable of the Weeds**
  - **Three Parables about the Kingdom**
  - **Treasures New and Old**
  - **The Rejection of Jesus at Nazareth**

# Matthew 13

- **Matthew 13:1-2** *“That same day Jesus went out of the house and sat beside the sea...and the whole crowd stood on the beach”*
  - At this point, Jesus was staying in Peter’s house in *Capernaum*, on the *Sea of Galilee*
  - He had been living among the people who came to hear him and/or be healed for possibly the previous three years
  - So here he left Peter’s house and sat down on the beach of the Sea of Galilee
  - When it got too crowded, he got into (most likely) Peter’s boat
  - Father pointed out that Peter still had his boat but that he was now serving Jesus as a “fisherman”

# Matthew 13 (Cont)

- **Matthew 13:3-9** *“And he told them many things in parables... He who has ears, let him hear”*
  - Most of the people living in the northern region of Galilee who were not tied to the fishing industry were grain farmers
  - The entire area was covered in beautiful grain-producing land
  - Jesus was mainly talking to farmers
  - Father asked us to imagine Jesus giving this parable to those farmers
  - At that time, grain farmers broadcasted the seed by hand and some of it fell on bad soil and hopefully most of it fell on good soil

# Matthew 13 (Cont)

- **Matthew 13:10-17** *“Then the disciples came and said to him... and did not hear it”*
  - Father pointed out that the problem here was that the people had been listening to Jesus over this time, but they had not heard what said
  - They had seen his works (10 mighty deeds/miracles in **Mt 8 & 9**), but had not really seen them
  - If they had heard and seen Him, their hearts would have been converted, and they would have repented so that He could heal them
  - At this point, Jesus begins to speak to them in **parables** which can be seen as signs pointing back to the time of Isaiah (**Isaiah 42:19** c)



# Matthew 13 (Cont)

- Even though some of those who heard his words (his disciples) may not have really understood exactly what He was talking about, they at least had a grasp or hint at what He was saying
- They had faith in what He said and were determined to stick with Him
- Thus, He told them, “to him who has will more be given”
- But, to those who refused to accept His words will have nothing to show for it, and even the little they have will be taken away

# Matthew 13 (Cont)

- In the next couple of chapters, we will see Jesus begin to walk away from *Galilee* and not return
- Father said that the train was leaving the station and He was asking His listeners whether or not they were going with Him
- Before He left, He gave them several other parables about the Kingdom of Heaven (God)
- Father explained that the parables were cryptic sayings that were hard to understand (unless you had the code to unlock them)
- If one had the code, they were beautiful teaching vehicles

# Matthew 13 (Cont)

- Matthew was saying that those who were not “in the house” with Jesus, were not given the code (making the parables obscure stories)
- Matthew provided six other parables to include: the parable of the seeds and weeds in **Matthew 13:24**
- Father pointed out that this parable gives consolation throughout the history of the church to explain how wickedness can exist side by side with righteousness within the church
- In this parable, Jesus directed that both the good and bad seed be allowed to grow up together and then be sorted out at the harvest
- Jesus gave us many parables like this
- Again, the disciples came to him “in the house” where He explained their meaning to the disciples (those in the house)

# Matthew 13 (Cont)

- **Matthew 13:53-58** *“And when Jesus had finished these parables...because of their unbelief”*
  - This marks the end of Book 3 of Matthew’s Gospel
  - At this point, Jesus was in the synagogue in his home town of *Nazareth*
  - His neighbors could not believe that this carpenter could really be the long-awaited Messiah
  - Jesus reminded them that a prophet was not accepted in his home town
  - We will now turn to **Matthew 14**