

# Together with Jesus

Week Six – Matthew 11 and 12

Rejection by Israel



# Warm Up

What are the reasons people give for not following Jesus today?



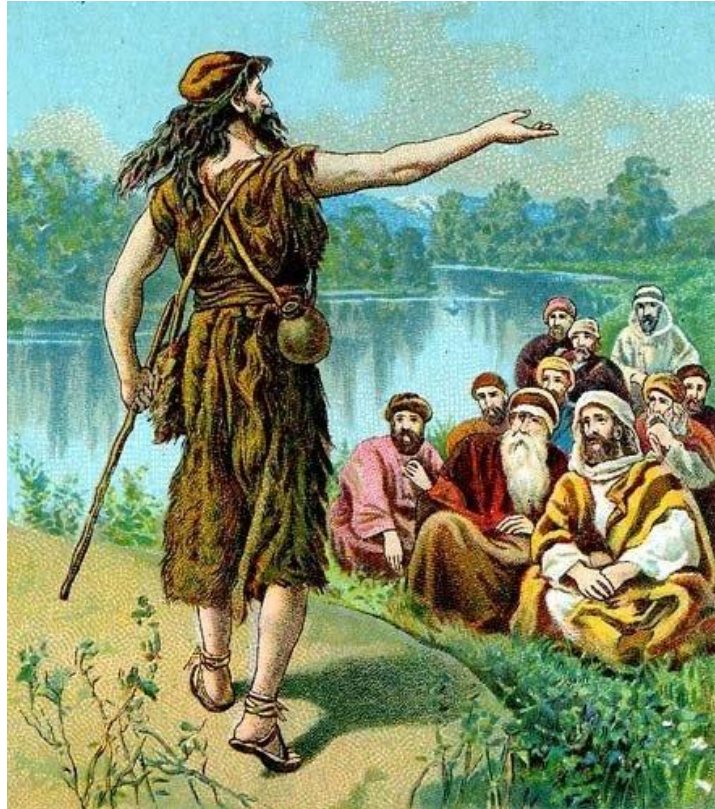
# Matthew 11:1-6

## Delegation from John the Baptist

Disciples from John the Baptist come to Jesus with questions about who He is. Jesus responds with quotations from Isaiah 29, 35, and 61 – but also adds a line about the dead being raised up.



**Question: What do you think John's motivation was in sending his disciples?**



# Matthew 11:7-19

## Who is John the Baptist?

As his disciples leave to go relay Jesus' response to John, Jesus turns to the crowd and questions them about John. Jesus addresses a tension in those who left following John for following Jesus.

**Question: What do you think of Jesus' claim that John is "the greatest in the kingdom"?**

# Matthew 11:20-30

## Unrepentant Cities

Jesus bemoans the lack of repentance from cities that He had just sent His disciples to, making unusual and offensive comparisons with Gentile cities. However, He follows up with Gospel for any that would follow Him, thanking the Father that He gave them the ability.



**Question: What do you think of the dichotomy of those who “should” understand who Jesus is and those who do?**



**Question: How do you suppose Jesus' Hosea quote "I desire mercy and not sacrifice" fits here?**

# Matthew 12:1-8

## Sabbath Dispute

Chapter 12 opens up with a dispute about the Sabbath that comes from a legalistic interpretation by the Jewish religious. Jesus responds by claiming authority over the Sabbath.

# Matthew 12:9-21

## Sabbath Test Case

The Pharisees bring up a test case with a man with a withered hand, who Jesus heals. As a result, Jesus leaves the synagogue with several followers in tow. This is perhaps the first time that we see people choosing between Jesus and the Jewish authority represented by the synagogue.



**Question: What do you suppose the Pharisees want Jesus to do in this section? What might have been their trap?**



**Question: What do you suppose is the blaspheming against the Holy Spirit here?**

## **Matthew 12:22-37**

### **The Fruit of the Pharisees**

Jesus heals another man by casting out a demon, sparking a response from the Pharisees. Jesus then warns them of blaspheming against the Holy Spirit and warning the crowd of the fruit of their way of thinking.



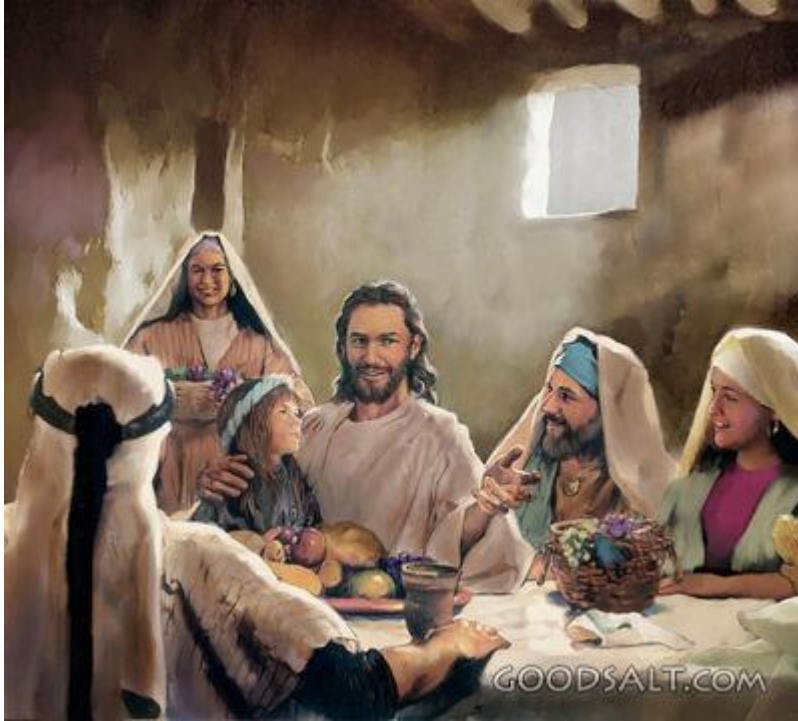
# Matthew 12:38-45

## Desire for Signs

The Pharisees ask Jesus for a sign, but Jesus responds with a series of abrasive comments about signs that seem to lift Gentiles above the Jewish religious elite.



**Question: What kind of signs do you think the Pharisees would have accepted from Jesus?**



# Matthew 12:46-50

## Jesus' True Family

This section ends thematically with Jesus' family coming and calling for him, but Jesus making a statement about what truly makes us a part of His family.

**Question: What makes us a part of Jesus' family today?**



# Wrap Up

How do we deal with people who are offended by Jesus today?

Next week – Matthew 13 and 14