



Sermon Discussion Questions: Matthew 12

Matthew 12:1-14

1. Share a time you were tired and truly enjoyed a “sabbath.” What was that experience like for you?
2. In this passage, we are introduced to two different ways of understanding and keeping the sabbath. Compare and contrast the ways of the Pharisees and Jesus.
3. Jesus says that He is Lord of the Sabbath. What does He mean and how did He display His Lordship in this passage?
4. How does God’s law regarding the Sabbath reveal His heart for His people?
5. Based on the sermon, how did you grow in your understanding of God’s command to keep the sabbath? What practical step(s) can you take in the coming weeks to apply this sermon to your life?

Matthew 12:15-21

1. We’re about halfway finished with the book of Matthew. What aspect of Jesus’ life, ministry, and teaching has impacted you most thus far?
2. Verse 15 begins with the words, “Jesus withdrew from there.” Why did He do this? Also, Jesus’ withdrawal is quite different from what we might expect. How does that encourage, convict, or inspire you?
3. Matthew states that Jesus fulfills the messianic prophecy in Isaiah 42. How does verse 18 reveal the relationship between the Father and the Son?
4. Verses 19-22 show us Jesus’ heart and ministry. What part of this prophecy most resonates with you and why?
5. Spend some time as a group praising and praying to Jesus, the fulfillment of Isaiah 42.

Matthew 12:22-32

1. Share a time you experienced spiritual warfare. What were the circumstances? How did the situation impact your faith and your relationship with God?
2. This story reveals that there is a kingdom of darkness. What activities and characteristics of this kingdom do you see in this story? How have you witnessed (or experienced) these things in your own life?
3. Jesus displays His power over the kingdom of darkness through both His healing and teaching. How would you like Jesus to display His power in your life and/or in the lives of those whom you love right now?
4. Jesus warns against the sin of blasphemy. What is it? How have you seen this sin revealed recently (in our culture, in someone close to you, etc.)?
5. Jesus promises that those who have sinned against Him (the Son of Man) can be forgiven. What sin are you most grateful He's forgiven you of? What sin do you need to confess to Him today and how might your group pray for you?

Matthew 12:33-37

1. Share a time when someone spoke words (positive or negative) that were significant to you. How did that they impact you then and now?
2. Jesus says that out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaks. What does He mean? How have you seen this principle displayed?
3. Describe your speech right now. To what extent does it reveal your heart? How would you like to see your speech and your heart change?
4. Jesus says that our speech will be judged. How does that make you feel? How can you turn to Jesus?
5. Spend some time in prayer asking for God to change your heart, your character, and your speech.

Matthew 12:38-45

1. Share a time God showed you a sign. What was the situation? How was your faith encouraged?
2. Jesus says that He would give this evil, adulterous generation a sign. What was it? Why was this sign important?
3. How might the story of Jonah and the Ninevites speak to the people then and to us now? What about the story of Solomon and the Queen of Sheba?
4. Jesus teaches about an unclean spirit. What was the point of this illustration?
5. Jesus provides several teaching points in this passage. What is your takeaway? How might your group pray for you as you seek to apply Jesus' teaching to your life?

Matthew 12:46-50

1. Share about your family. What impact (good and/or bad) has your family had on your life?
2. Imagine Jesus' relationship with His family growing up. What do you think it was like for Jesus? For his mom and his brothers?
3. Jesus makes a distinction between two families. What is it? How did He seek to relate and minister to both?
4. What priority do you place on your nuclear family? On your church family? How might you grow in your relationship and ministry to both?
5. Spend some time praying as a group for your nuclear family and for our church family.