

**Matthew – The King And His Kingdom**  
**The Great Adventure**  
**Notes For Session 12 – Chapters 11 & 12: Jesus Confronts an Evil Generation**

**T1. Overview of the Chapter:**

In Chapter 10, Jesus was stepping things up and telling them to go and that there really is going to be persecution. He encouraged them ‘Do not Fear, Fear not’.

In Chapter 11, we see that the more the message goes out the more they experience resistance. Jesus focuses on the Jewish Leadership and how they fail to pastor the people.

**T2. The Messengers from John the Baptist (Verses 1–6)**

“When Jesus finished giving these commands to his twelve disciples, he went away from that place to teach and to preach in their towns. When John heard in prison of the works of the Messiah, he sent his disciples to him with this question, "Are you the one who is to come, or should we look for another?" Jesus said to them in reply, "Go and tell John what you hear and see: the blind regain their sight, the lame walk, lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the poor have the good news proclaimed to them. And blessed is the one who takes no offense at me.".

**A.** John the Baptist is wondering is this the Messiah. Jesus responds by telling them to tell John the Baptist what they see and hear. All the things listed by Jesus were also listed by the Prophet Isaiah about the Servant. Jesus is doing the very things Isaiah’s Servant was supposed to do before being offered up for sin. (See Isaiah 26:19, 29:18, 35-4-6, 61:1-2).

**B. CCC549:** By freeing some individuals from the earthly evils of hunger, injustice, illness and death, Jesus performed messianic signs. Nevertheless he did not come to abolish all evils here below, but to free men from the gravest slavery, sin, which thwarts them in their vocation as God's sons and causes all forms of human bondage.

**T3. Jesus' Testimony to John (Verses 7-10):**

As they were going off, Jesus began to speak to the crowds about John, "What did you go out to the desert to see? A reed swayed by the wind? Then what did you go out to see? Someone dressed in fine clothing? Those who wear fine clothing are in royal palaces. Then why did you go out? To see a prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. This is the one about whom it is written: 'Behold, I am sending my messenger ahead of you; he will prepare your way before you.'

- Jesus is quoting Malachi 3:1 to describe John the forerunner. Later He identifies John as Elijah.

**T4. Verses 11-15: No one greater than John the Baptist:**

“Amen, I say to you, among those born of women there has been none greater than John the Baptist; yet the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he. From the days of John the Baptist until now, the kingdom of heaven suffers violence, and the violent are taking it by force. All the prophets and the law prophesied up to the time of John. And if you are willing to accept it, he is Elijah, the one who is to come. Whoever has ears ought to hear.”

**A.** Elijah was the greatest of the Prophets in the OT. Jesus is not speaking of re-incarnation when talking about John the Baptist as Elijah. But is coming the spirit of Elijah as the forerunner to the Messiah as mentioned in Malichi.

- 1) John is like Elijah. We covered this early in our study.
- 2) Elijah prepared the way for Elisha. Just as John the Baptist is going to prepare the way for Jesus.

- 3) Just like Moses was the forerunner for Joshua. Moses and Elijah are forerunners.
- 4) John the Baptist is the forerunner preparing the way for the greatest which is Jesus Christ.
- 5) Relationship between Elijah and Elisha at the Jordan River.

- **See Question #12 in Part 1 of Matthew Study for more information.**

#### **T5. Verses 16-19: Jesus focuses on the current wicked generation:**

"To what shall I compare this generation? It is like children who sit in marketplaces and call to one another, 'We played the flute for you, but you did not dance, we sang a dirge but you did not mourn.' For John came neither eating nor drinking, and they said, 'He is possessed by a demon.' The Son of Man came eating and drinking and they said, 'Look, he is a glutton and a drunkard, a friend of tax collectors and sinners.' But wisdom is vindicated by her works."

- A.** Jesus exposed the superficial leadership of the day and introduce the idea that He is the true leadership. He is the true Shepherd that has come down from heaven.
- B.** He compares them with children playing games in the streets and expecting everyone else to follow you, but they are not following.
- C.** Jesus brings out the point that Wisdom is justified by her deeds. However, the Pharisees who claim to have real wisdom do not have the deeds and people are not following them.

#### **T6. Reproaches to Unrepentant Towns Verses (20-23):**

"Then he began to reproach the towns where most of his mighty deeds had been done, since they had not repented. "Woe to you, Chorazin! Woe to you, Bethsaida! For if the mighty deeds done in your midst had been done in Tyre and Sidon, they would long ago have repented in sackcloth and ashes. But I tell you, it will be more tolerable for Tyre and Sidon on the day of judgment than for you. And as for you, Capernaum: 'Will you be exalted to heaven? You will go down to the netherworld.' For if the mighty deeds done in your midst had been done in Sodom, it would have remained until this day. But I tell you, it will be more tolerable for the land of Sodom on the day of judgment than for you. "Jesus did not come to bring division to divide people. He came to bring Peace that passes all understanding and He is the Prince of Peace."

- A.** He is going for the leadership and upbraiding the leadership for their poor shepherd ship.
- B.** Woe to you; Woe in Hebrew language is a judgment formulation. You are judged.
- C.** Capernaum is Jesus headquarters, where He settled down, where all His work centered. He compares Capernaum to Sodom. There was physical sin going in Sodom, but physical sin does not compare with the spiritual dimension of sin. The rejection of the Son of Man, the rejection of the Gospel.

#### **T7. Verses 28-30: The Gentle Mastery of Christ**

"Come to me, all you who labor and are burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am meek and humble of heart; and you will find rest for your selves. For my yoke is easy, and my burden light."

- A.** Jesus has some comforting words at the end of Chapter 11 for the strong words that He has just delivered.
- B.** Discussion is turning towards burdens and lifting of burdens, which Jesus has come to do. When things are rough, we turn to prayer immediately.
- C.** Come to me. Jesus says come to me in difficult times.

**D. Take my Yoke upon you.** A yoke was very heavy and put on oxen for the purpose of steering the ox in a particular direction.

- 1) If we come to Jesus we will find rest for our souls.
- 2) The New Covenant has a Yoke, but there is great power to carry it.
- 3) There is a connection between the end of Chapter 11 and the beginning of Chapter 12 which has to do with burdens and a yoke.
- 4) In the Old Covenant – Rest meant you could not work. You could not lift burdens on the Sabbath.

### **Chapter 12:**

The very clever way Jesus exposes the leadership of the day and draws them into His story their own game and gives them a role in an OT story.

### **T8. Picking Grain on the Sabbath (Verses 1-8):**

“At that time Jesus was going through a field of grain on the sabbath. His disciples were hungry and began to pick the heads of grain and eat them. When the Pharisees saw this, they said to him, "See, your disciples are doing what is unlawful to do on the sabbath." He said to them, "Have you not read what David did when he and his companions were hungry, how he went into the house of God and ate the bread of offering, which neither he nor his companions but only the priests could lawfully eat? Or have you not read in the law that on the sabbath the priests serving in the temple violate the sabbath and are innocent? I say to you, something greater than the temple is here. If you knew what this meant, 'I desire mercy, not sacrifice,' you would not have condemned these innocent men. For the Son of Man is Lord of the sabbath."

**A.** You do not lift burdens on the Sabbath. Only a select group of people can lift burdens on the Sabbath and they are Priests, because they are helping other people lift their burdens.

**B.** Remember in the Gospel of Matthew, Jesus is going to establish a new Israel, He is the new Moses, He is the new Temple, there is a new Israel with Twelve new Tribes (12 Apostles), there is going to be new Priests. This story is introducing the new Priests in the Kingdom.

**C.** Have you not read what David did – 1 Samuel 21. Spring a trap for the pharisees. He is going to cast them in the role of someone in that story. Naming the Edomite that is spying on the David.

- 1) 1 Samuel 21:1-8 Then David departed on his way, while Jonathan went back into the city.

#### The Holy Bread.

David went to Ahimelech, the priest of Nob, who came trembling to meet him and asked, "Why are you alone? Is there no one with you?" David answered the priest: "The king gave me a commission and told me to let no one know anything about the business on which he sent me or the commission he gave me. For that reason I have arranged a meeting place with my men. Now what have you on hand? Give me five loaves, or whatever you can find." But the priest replied to David, "I have no ordinary bread on hand, only holy bread; if the men have abstained from women, you may eat some of that." David answered the priest: "We have indeed been segregated from women as on previous occasions. Whenever I go on a journey, all the young men are consecrated--even for a secular journey. All the more so today, when they are consecrated at arms!" So the priest gave him holy bread, for no other bread was on hand except the showbread which had been removed from the LORD'S presence and replaced by fresh bread when it was taken away. One of Saul's servants was there that day, detained before the LORD; his name was Doeg the Edomite, and he was Saul's chief henchman.

- 2) Saul is king, but David has been privately anointed as King. Saul wants David dead. Saul has spies sent out to spy on David by the name of Doeg. He spies on David the King. And he goes back to Saul and the priests of Nob were wiped out, they are wiped out.
  - 3) Jesus is reminded them of the story David in 1 Samuel and He is recasting the characters and saying you are spying on Me the King. And these men of mine are the priests of the new Kingdom. And who are allowed to work on the Sabbath, the priests.
  - 4) Mark 2:23-28 The Disciples and the Sabbath.  
As he was passing through a field of grain on the sabbath, his disciples began to make a path while picking the heads of grain. At this the Pharisees said to him, "Look, why are they doing what is unlawful on the sabbath?" He said to them, "Have you never read what David did when he was in need and he and his companions were hungry? How he went into the house of God when Abiathar was high priest and ate the bread of offering that only the priests could lawfully eat, and shared it with his companions?" Then he said to them, "The sabbath was made for man, not man for the sabbath. That is why the Son of Man is lord even of the sabbath."
  - 5) Mark mentions Abiathar as High Priest opposed to Matthew who mentions Ahimelech. God has made a mistake?
    - a) Abiathar is Ahimelech's son. Abiathar is the last priest under the reign of Saul.
    - b) Mark is making a point – your days are over – it is the end of your reign as leaders.
    - c) Zadock is the first High Priest under the reign of David (2Samuel 8:17).
- D.** How could David eat the bread on the Sabbath – He was a King and a Priest. How could Jesus and the disciples eat the bread on the Sabbath – because there is a King and the priests.
- E.** It mentions the Showbread which was called the Bread of the Presence. The only part of the OT Tabernacle being spoken of as an everlasting covenant. Priests of the NT are participating in the Bread of the Presence.
- F.** What do we call the Eucharist that the priests give us – The Real Presence.
- G.** Mt 12:5: It is only the priests that can go into the Temple and profane the Sabbath and not be guilty, because they are lifting the burdens of others. They are sanctifying the people and that is the job of our priests they sanctify the people.
- H.** Mt 12:6: Something greater than temple is here – Jesus is greater than the temple.
- 1) In the OT in the United Kingdom period (1 & 2 Samuel and 1 Kings 1 -11), God made provisions for Israel because of their hardness of hearts. They were not ready to accept the best.
  - 2) God wanted to be their King and wanted to be their Dwelling. He wanted Israel. to dwell in His presence. He would dwell in every home and He would be their King.
  - 3) After the period of the Judges and there was no leader anymore and Joshua was dead, in 1 Samuel 8 they cried out for a King. They wanted a king like all the other nations. So God gave them a King like the other nations. They got Saul, David and Solomon.

- 4) They did not need a Temple, but they wanted to be like the other nations who had a temple. So God gave them a Temple.
  - 5) In Matthew 11-12 Jesus is saying I am the King of Kings and something greater than the Temple is here – Jesus.
- I. Mt 12:7-8: If you knew what this meant, 'I desire mercy, not sacrifice,' you would not have condemned these innocent men. For the Son of Man is Lord of the sabbath."
  - J. Mt 12:14 But the Pharisees went out and took counsel against him to put him to death. In one Chapter He has just told them that He is the King. They are the priests so they are going to be without jobs. And they are plotting at this point to kill Him.

### **T9. The Man with a Withered Hand Verses 9-14:**

Moving on from there, he went into their synagogue. And behold, there was a man there who had a withered hand. They questioned him, "Is it lawful to cure on the sabbath?" so that they might accuse him. He said to them, "Which one of you who has a sheep that falls into a pit on the sabbath will not take hold of it and lift it out? How much more valuable a person is than a sheep. So it is lawful to do good on the sabbath." Then he said to the man, "Stretch out your hand." He stretched it out, and it was restored as sound as the other.

- Jesus is giving them an example of lifting the burden. He is going to demonstrate how the King and priests of the new Kingdom are going to lift the burden.

### **T10. The Chosen Servant (Verses 15- 21)"**

When Jesus realized this, he withdrew from that place. Many (people) followed him, and he cured them all, but he warned them not to make him known. This was to fulfill what had been spoken through Isaiah the prophet: "Behold, my servant whom I have chosen, my beloved in whom I delight; I shall place my spirit upon him, and he will proclaim justice to the Gentiles. He will not contend or cry out, nor will anyone hear his voice in the streets. A bruised reed he will not break, a smoldering wick he will not quench, until he brings justice to victory. And in his name the Gentiles will hope."

### **T11. Jesus and Beelzebul (Verses 22-32):**

Then they brought to him a demoniac who was blind and mute. He cured the mute person so that he could speak and see. All the crowd was astounded, and said, "Could this perhaps be the Son of David?" But when the Pharisees heard this, they said, "This man drives out demons only by the power of Beelzebul, the prince of demons." But he knew what they were thinking and said to them, "Every kingdom divided against itself will be laid waste, and no town or house divided against itself will stand. And if Satan drives out Satan, he is divided against himself; how, then, will his kingdom stand? And if I drive out demons by Beelzebul, by whom do your own people drive them out? Therefore they will be your judges. But if it is by the Spirit of God that I drive out demons, then the kingdom of God has come upon you. How can anyone enter a strong man's house and steal his property, unless he first ties up the strong man? Then he can plunder his house. Whoever is not with me is against me, and whoever does not gather with me scatters. Therefore, I say to you, every sin and blasphemy will be forgiven people, but blasphemy against the Spirit will not be forgiven. And whoever speaks a word against the Son of Man will be forgiven; but whoever speaks against the holy Spirit will not be forgiven, either in this age or in the age to come.

- A. **Attributing the work of God to Satan CCC 1864:** "Therefore I tell you, every sin and blasphemy will be forgiven men, but the blasphemy against the Spirit will not be forgiven." There are no limits to the mercy of God, but anyone who deliberately refuses to accept his mercy by repenting, rejects the forgiveness of his sins and the salvation offered by the Holy Spirit. Such hardness of heart can lead to final impenitence and eternal loss.

**B.** It is not that God will not forgive you, but that you have place yourself in a place where you refused the grace of God. In refusing the grace of God there is no pardon.

### **T12. The Demand for a Sign (Verses 38-42):**

Then some of the scribes and Pharisees said to him, "Teacher, we wish to see a sign from you." He said to them in reply, "An evil and unfaithful generation seeks a sign, but no sign will be given it except the sign of Jonah the prophet. Just as Jonah was in the belly of the whale three days and three nights, so will the Son of Man be in the heart of the earth three days and three nights. At the judgment, the men of Nineveh will arise with this generation and condemn it, because they repented at the preaching of Jonah; and there is something greater than Jonah here. At the judgment the queen of the south will arise with this generation and condemn it, because she came from the ends of the earth to hear the wisdom of Solomon; and there is something greater than Solomon here.

**A.** Why did Jonah not want to go to Nineveh? Because he knew God was going to send, the Assyrians to take destroy the Northern Ten Tribe of Israel in 722 BC. As foretold by the prophets.

**B.** But conversion comes to the Assyrians and spares Nineveh. Jonah has only one oracle from the Lord, Jonah 3:4: "In forty days I shall destroy Nineveh". However in forty years Assyria was destroyed.

**C.** Jesus is giving the sign of Jonah to the Pharisees. Forty years later, the Romans came into Jerusalem and destroyed the Temple.

**D.** In 70 AD the Romans came in and destroyed the Temple, but no Christians died because they had fled to the hills.

### **T13. Conclusion**

**A.** This whole chapter is about that it is the end of the old regime. We have come to an end of a age.

**B.** There is a new Temple, new King, new Priests, sign of Jonah (they have 40 years).

**C.** In Chapter 13, Jesus is going to start speaking in Parables. Parables are not for children, they are used when there is corrupt leadership.