

SCRIPTURE

THE GOSPEL ACCORDING TO ST. MATTHEW

CHAPTER 12

Mt 12:1. At that time Jesus went on the sabbath day through the corn (or grainfields); and his disciples were an hungred (or became hungry), and began to pluck the ears of corn (or some heads of grain), and to eat (them).

COMMENTARY

CHAPTER 12

The ministry of Jesus began when He was about 30 years of age.

It lasted approximately 3 years.

Mt chapter 12, verses 1 to 21, takes place approximately 18 months after He began His ministry.

Mt 12:1. The extreme hatred of some of the religious establishment against Jesus had grown larger and larger. As already seen, some of the religious establishment went so far in their hatred of Jesus that some even committed the unforgivable sin.

This doomed them to eternal damnation and left them with no possible hope of repentance and being forgiven.

Jesus and His disciples now traveled through some grainfields. It was the Sabbath day, which is Saturday.

Israel's day generally begins at 6pm, or when certain stars appear; however, with all the lights in the cities, seeing the stars is now difficult.

In Jerusalem, after 6pm on Friday until the same time on Saturday, traffic comes almost to a stop, except for Arab taxi cab drivers.

However, in Tel Aviv, many things remain open. Some people may go to an amusement park.

Because they were hungry, they began to partake of what was growing in the fields. What was being grown may have been barley or wheat. That which Jesus and His disciples were doing was allowed by God's Word.

The verse seems to indicate that the time of

Mt 12:2. But when the Pharisees saw it, they said unto him, Behold (or look), thy (or your) disciples do (or are doing) that which is not lawful to do upon the sabbath day.

year was that of the harvest.

Lev19:10-is written to the farmers:

And thou shalt not glean thy vineyard, neither shalt thou gather the fallen fruit of thy vineyard; thou shalt leave them for the poor and for the sojourner: I am Jehovah your God.

Deut 24:21-When thou gatherest the grapes of thy vineyard, thou shalt not glean it afterward: it shall be for the stranger, for the fatherless, and for the widow.

Regarding the traveler, it is written-Deut 23:25-When thou comest into the standing corn of thy neighbor, then thou mayest pluck the ears with thine hand, but thou shalt not move a sickle unto thy neighbor's standing corn.

As has been said in **Mt 12:1**, At that time Jesus went on the sabbath day through the corn (or grainfields); and his disciples were an hungred (or became hungry), and began to pluck the ears of corn (or some heads of grain), and to eat (them).

Mt 12:2. Traditionally, a person was not to travel more than about a kilometer on the Sabbath.

On the Sabbath, Jesus went through a field of grain.

The religious leaders at this time were apparently following Jesus, in an attempt to keep an eye on Him and accuse Him.

Jesus had performed incredible miracles. Yet, for the most part these were ignored by the religious establishment.

Rather, they sought to find even the smallest thing in what Jesus said or did, so that they might find fault.

When the Pharisees (those of the religious establishment) saw the disciples take some ears of corn, they found fault and accused them, by saying, Thy disciples do that which is not lawful (or right) to do on the Sabbath day?

This was based on Ex 20:8-11, which speaks of remembering the Sabbath day.

Their accusation was a lie. It was based upon manmade rules, not God's Word. Deut 23:25 did permit them to pluck the ears to eat on the Sabbath, but not to labor or work for a profit.

It has been indicated that the Pharisees had over 500 rules, which they had added to those of Moses.

These religious leaders were often judging situations wrongly, as do many of the unsaved clergy in today's churches also

They had their own set of standards they followed, which were not biblical. They could have humbly asked Jesus why He did this, but they did not. Rather, they asked with an accusing attitude.

Mk 7:6, 7, 9-He (Jesus) answered and said unto them, Well hath Esaias prophesied of you hypocrites, as it is written, This people honoureth me with their lips, but their heart is far from me. Howbeit in vain do they worship me, teaching for doctrines the commandments of men. And he said unto them, Full well **ye reject the commandment of God, that ye may keep your own tradition.**

All people of the world, no matter what persuasion they are of, no matter what religion or lack of religion they are, are actually following only one of two masters.

The one is Satan, and the other is the **God of heaven.**

Not to follow Jesus (which is God's Word) is to follow the god of this world, which is the devil-2 Cor 4:4.

Jesus is on the one side. Jesus is the only way. He is **the** Way, the Truth, and the Life-Jn 14:6.

There are approximately 25,000 other religions or persuasions that are on the opposite side.

Some follow other philosophies, or other gods.

Some claim they follow Jesus, as a smoke screen, but their roots are centered in the Babylonian cult. They are now centered in Rome.

The proof of how effective Satan is at making the people of this world believe the lies that people say, or the ones he whispers in their ears or thoughts, is this.

The Bible clearly reveals that only a very **few** people will go to heaven, or, as it may be said, a small percentage.

The vast majority will perish to hell. Yet **can anyone** find even one person in a thousand that believes they will really go to hell?

Satan's power to deceive is so great that even one-third of the angels in heaven followed him.

Satan's ministers are many. Every cult, and many Christian denominations and Christian churches, are not following Jesus; and those few that do, are usually only lukewarm.

Do you immerse yourself in God's Word? Do you obey Jesus which is the Bible? Very, very few professing Christians have ever allowed the Word of God to be their life. Few ever pick up

their cross and follow Jesus.

(MEAT OF GOD'S WORD)

Most professing Christians are so ignorant of God's Word they can't even begin to discern the most basic things or doctrines of the Bible.

And when it comes to the **MEAT OF GOD'S WORD**, who could even begin to fathom it in these latter days. Even so, most ministers do not know what the meat of God's Word is. It is "**perfection.**"

In Mt 5:48, it is written: Be ye therefore perfect even as your Father which is in heaven is perfect.

Heb 6:1-Therefore leaving the principles of the doctrine of Christ (or basic doctrines), let us go on unto "**perfection.**"

Perfection is reflected and revealed in a person's thoughts, attitude, and actions. It is being Christlike in every way and in every situation.

Also many ministers are so shallow in their teaching of the Gospel in this latter day generation in the churches and through the air waves, and internet, that the words lukewarm, wretched, miserable, poor, blind, and naked apply to them like a hand in a glove but they do not know it; as it is written, thou...Knowest not.

Jesus is not on the inside of most churches or TV ministries, or radio ministries.

He is on the outside knocking on the door, but the door is shut and the ministers will not let Him in. However, the blind ministers are so blind that they cannot understand that they are blind at all.

Salvation in the mind of the Pharisees was attained by following their manmade traditions.

Mt 12:3. But he said unto them, **Have ye not read** what David did, when he was an hungred (or became hungry), and they that were with him (his companions);

Over and over, Jesus corrected the blind leaders of the blind. He performed miracles that no man had ever done to prove that He was the Son of God. The more He loved, the more they hated Him.

As has been said in **Mt 12:2**, But when the Pharisees saw it, they said unto him, Behold (or look), thy (or your) disciples do (or are doing) that which is not lawful to do upon the sabbath day.

Mt 12:3. (ref Mk 2:25; Lk 6:1-5; 1 Sam 21:3-6). Jesus then uses the Scriptures to answer their accusation.

It is the Scriptures that reveal to us **God's will**.
It is the Gospel that gives us **direction**.
It is the Bible that produces **faith** in a person.

So what does Satan do? He puts in the minds of people that there are many ways to be saved. Satan uses many tactics to keep a person away from devouring God's Word.

And if Satan cannot keep a person from reading God's Word, he may then put in their mind that a person only needs to read certain parts of the Bible, such as the Psalms and Proverbs, and not the whole counsel of God.

Jesus begins by asking the Pharisees a question: Have you not read what David did?

Satan knows the Scriptures well. While his understanding of the Scriptures may seem correct, it is not. He understands the things that be of men, but not the things that be of God. The unsaved also have a distorted understanding of God's Word as Satan, their father, does.

One thing stands out regarding **Satan's ministers**, which look like the real thing.

It is correction.

In all ways, they can look like the real thing.
They can sound like they are of God.
They can do the same things God's ministers do.

But the **one thing that sets them apart from God's ministers is correction.**

THEY DESPISE BIBLICAL CORRECTION. In about all other ways, they can look like the real thing.

Regarding plucking the ears of corn, it is written: Deut 23:25-When thou comest into the standing corn of thy neighbor, then thou mayest pluck the ears with thine hand, but thou shalt not move a sickle unto thy neighbor's standing corn.

Mark 7:6,7,9-He answered and said unto them, Well hath Esaias prophesied of you hypocrites, as it is written, This people honoureth me with their lips, but their heart is far from me. Howbeit in vain do they worship me, teaching for doctrines the commandments of men. 9 And he said unto them, Full well ye reject the commandment of God, that ye may keep your own tradition.

2 Cor 11:13-15-For such are false apostles, deceitful workers, transforming themselves into the apostles of Christ. And no marvel; for Satan himself is transformed into an angel of light. Therefore it is no great thing if **his ministers also be transformed as the ministers of righteousness**; whose end shall be according to their works.

Satan used the Scriptures incorrectly to try and deceive Jesus. Jesus countered Satan with the Scriptures, by rightly dividing God's Word.

Satan is behind the false accusations of the unsaved. Satan is the accuser of the brethren.

Mt 12:4. How he entered into the house of God, and (they) (or he and his companions) did eat the shew (or consecrated) bread, which was not lawful for him to eat, neither for them which were with him, but only for the priests (alone)?

If Satan did not exist, the wrong thinking we all have would cease, as it will during the Millennium.

The religious leaders followed traditions. Jesus, however, is the Word of God.

As has been said in **Mt 12:3**, But he said unto them, **Have ye not read** what David did, when he was an hungred (or became hungry), and they that were with him (his companions).

God will not consider this sin, if it was done to meet a special need when the men were weak from hunger.

Mt 12:4. This is located in 1 Sam 21:1-6.

It is written: Then came David to Nob to Ahimelech the priest: and Ahimelech was afraid at the meeting of David, and said unto him, Why art thou alone, and no man with thee?

And David said unto Ahimelech the priest, The king hath commanded me a business, and hath said unto me, Let no man know any thing of the business whereabout I send thee, and what I have commanded thee: and I have appointed my servants to such and such a place.

Now therefore what is under thine hand? give me five loaves of bread in mine hand, or what there is present.

And the priest answered David, and said, There is no common bread under mine hand, but there is hallowed bread; if the young men have kept themselves at least from women.

And David answered the priest, and said unto him, Of a truth women have been kept from us about these three days, since I came out, and the vessels of the young men are holy, and the bread is in a manner common, yea, though it were sanctified this day in the vessel.

Mt 12:5. Or have ye not read in the law, how that on the sabbath days the priests in the temple profane (or break or desecrate) the sabbath (day), and are blameless (or innocent)?

So the priest gave him hallowed bread: for there was no bread there but the shewbread, that was taken from before the Lord, to put hot bread in the day when it was taken away.

As has been said in **Mt 12:4**, How he entered into the house of God, and (they) (or He and his companions) did eat the shew (or consecrated) bread, which was not lawful for him to eat, neither for them which were with him, but only for the priests (alone)?

Mt 12:5. Jesus continues with a second defense as He said, "Have ye not read?" thereby rebuking the false accusations of the Pharisees. These religious leaders were accusing Him of doing unlawful things on the Sabbath day. Yes, they had read these scriptures, but their understanding of them was darkness, as it is with unbelievers and ministers.

Oftentimes, the religious leaders accused Him openly with many people around. They hoped to discredit Jesus before the multitudes.

Jesus used the same words as He did in verse 3. He said: Have ye not read in the law (or we may say, the Scriptures)?

Jesus continues by saying how that on the Sabbath day the priests themselves in the Temple profane the Sabbath, and are blameless? The priests work. They do many things. They have many duties.

Numbers 28:9 reveals that on the Sabbath day two lambs were to be offered.

Jesus tells us it is right to do good on the Sabbath day.

It is right to heal on the Sabbath day.
It is right to pull your animal out of a pit on the Sabbath day.

It was right for the followers to pick corn to eat

Mt 12:6. But I say unto you (or tell you), That in this place is one greater than the temple.

on the Sabbath day.

It is right to teach God's Word on the Sabbath day.

The priests probably did more work on the Sabbath day, than any other. They were doing what the Lord had called them to do.

Judaism, at this time, had evolved into a mass of manmade rules and regulations.

Jesus came to set a man free from this bondage. He came to set a man free from the burdens of sin. Only God could do this.

This was accomplished on the cross. However, if a person does not repent and trust in Jesus for that forgiveness, they are still in their sins. And if they die in their sins, they will go to a place called hell, where they will wait for the Great White Throne Judgment.

As has been said in **Mt 12:5**, Or **have ye not read in the law**, how that on the sabbath days the priests in the temple profane (or break or desecrate) the sabbath (day), and are blameless (or innocent)?

Mt 12:6. The Temple in Jerusalem was considered the house of God. It housed the most sacred place—the Holy of Holies.

The Temple was to point people to God. Jesus is part of the Godhead.

Jesus now makes a statement that would have infuriated the religious leaders. He indicated that He was greater than the Temple.

There is none that could be greater than the Temple, except God Himself. Jesus was in no uncertain terms making the claim of Deity.

For a man to claim that he was God was beyond reason for the religious leaders. They believed that such a man should be put to

Mt 12:7. But if ye had known what this meaneth (or what these words mean), I will have mercy (or I desire compassion) (or mercy), and not sacrifice, ye would not have condemned the guiltless (or innocent).

death.

It was beyond their understanding that God would take on the form of a man.

A church building is not to be worshiped.

The Temple was not to be worshiped.

A denomination is not to be worshiped.

The head of a denomination is not to be worshiped.

The most popular evangelists in the world are not to be worshiped.

Jesus is much greater than the Temple. He is to be worshiped.

As has been said in Mt 12:6, But I say unto you (or tell you), That in this place is one greater than the temple.

Mt 12:7. Next, Jesus makes a statement that reflected the lack of understanding that the religious leaders had regarding the Scriptures. He said: "**But if ye had known what this meaneth.**" He was relating that what He was about to say, the religious leaders would not understand.

The words they would not understand were: "**I will have mercy, and not sacrifice.**"

He goes on to say that if they would have understood, they **would not have condemned the guiltless** or those that were innocent.

Jesus referred to Hosea 6:6 which says: For I desired mercy, and not sacrifice and the knowledge of God more than burnt offerings.

Without the mercy of Jesus, all humanity would be in hell. The mercy Jesus extends to all that trust in Him, through the cross, is hard to understand.

Our response to His mercy can best be

summed up in one word—love.

Mt 22:37-thou shalt love the lord, thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind. Let us say, you are to love God with your whole being.

Indeed, most ordained priests, elders, and clergy today are just as blind, as those that criticized Jesus and His disciples.

The religious leaders had accused and condemned those that had picked the ears of corn and ate-ref Mt 12:1.

Satan is the Accuser of the brethren. Those that follow Satan do as their father, the devil, does—they accuse-ref Rev 12:10.

Jesus came to show mercy on those whose hearts were right toward Him. Jesus had the power to forgive men. Only God can forgive. If they would have acknowledged that Jesus could forgive, they would have had to acknowledge He is God. They would not do this, despite the numerous miracles that Jesus did. The words of Jesus angered the unrepentant, religious leaders.

It is the same today. If the very words of Jesus are used to correct many of the religious leaders of this present time, they become very upset.

Just as most of the religious leaders in Jesus' time would not receive correction from Him, so it is with many of the religious leaders today.

When most of the clergy read the Bible, it is a closed book to them. They have a form of understanding, but it is wrong. They think they understand, but their understanding is very distorted.

Those that are under their teaching in the churches are as they are. They think they

understand, but they understand not. And when someone knocks on their door to help them learn, they often find doors slammed in their faces.

Even among Bible-believing denominations there are disagreements, as they follow the traditions of their denomination, rather than God's Word.

No church or denomination can save anyone. Salvation is only possible through repentance and faith in Jesus Christ.

But then, how many people nowadays even attend any church?

When Sunday morning comes, most are not in church. They are not reading their Bibles. They have no thirst to learn more of Jesus.

And those that go to a church, with very, very few exceptions, they are not being fed with any sort of sound doctrine; and, for most, this is the way they want it. Not only are nearly all so-called Bible-believing churches now dead, the people like it this way. With no teaching that convicts people of sin, and having the assurance they will go to heaven without having to repent, the people appear to love it to be so.

And then the Great Harlot, the Roman Catholic Church, headquartered in Rome, which is spoken of in Revelation chapter 17. It surrounds itself with pomp and majesty; and its followers love to have it this way. They love it this way until they die and find out they have been deceived, as they are screaming in hell awaiting the final Judgment. Then undoubtedly they want somehow to warn their relatives, but there is no way to do so. They perish for eternity.

Jesus will have mercy, but not to the unrepentant and disobedient.

Mt 12:8. For the Son of man is Lord even of the sabbath day.

As has been said in **Mt 12:7**, But if ye had known what this meaneth (or what these words mean), I will have mercy (or I desire compassion) (or mercy), and not sacrifice, ye would not have condemned the guiltless (or innocent).

Mt 12:8. Jesus had said in Mt 12:6-But I say unto you, That in this place is one greater than the temple.

Now He tells them that He (Who is the Son of man) is the Lord even of the Sabbath day.

In no uncertain terms, Jesus was saying He is God.

With these words, the religious leaders must have been like wild animals. In their eyes, how could any person make such a claim, unless He was God Himself. It was in no way possible, in their thinking, that this man could be God.

Ezek 20:10-Wherefore I caused them to go forth out of the land of Egypt and brought them into the wilderness. 11-And I gave them my statutes...12-Moreover also **I gave them my sabbaths**, to be a sign between me and them, that they might know that I am the Lord that sanctify them.

The words that Jesus was Lord even of the Sabbath day would indicate that He was God.

The religious leaders would have been very angry. Their desire to kill Him was on the rise.

For Jesus to say that He was the Lord of the Sabbath day was to say that He was God.

The word "Sabbath" appears in the King James Bible approximately 137 times.

As has been said in **Mt 12:8**, For the Son of man is Lord even of the sabbath day.

Mt 12:9. And when he was departed thence (or from there) (or going on from that place), he went into their synagogue:

Mt 12:10. And, behold, there was a man which had his hand withered (or shriveled) (there). And they asked (or questioned) him, saying, Is it lawful to heal on the **sabbath days**? (in order) that they might accuse him.

Mt 12:9. Jesus departs from thence (the area of the corn) and goes into their synagogue. The length of time between the two is not known.

The time period may have been a few days later or longer.

Hostility toward His teaching and who He claimed to be continued to increase until He was finally crucified. His teaching was not as the scribes and Pharisees.

And no man had ever done the miracles He did, which revealed He was indeed God that had come to this earth in human form.

As has been said in **Mt 12:9**, And when he was departed thence (or from there) (or going on from that place), he went into their synagogue:

Mt 12:10. The day Jesus went into the synagogue should have also been on a Sabbath. This was a Saturday.

Jewish days begin and end in the evening, not at midnight.

The Sabbath was a day to stop work and to attend the synagogue. It was a day that one might consider that one day the Messiah would come. Israel was looking for the millennial kingdom to come, and if that was going to happen, the King would also have to come.

Inside the synagogue, there was a man that had a withered hand.

The withered hand was symbolic of Israel. Israel had withered and had gone astray.

The accusers asked if it was lawful or right to heal on the sabbath days as they were seeking to accuse Him and discredit Him in front of the people.

Some believe the man was put there by the Pharisees.

Today's Christian churches, with very little exception, have also gone astray, including most of those on the radio and TV. As a result, the people love to have it so.

Preaching on hell, the lake of fire, the devil, sin, repentance, the judgments, denying oneself, and following Jesus has all but disappeared.

Then "they" tempted Jesus by asking Him a question. "They" are not identified. However, in verse 14, the Pharisees are mentioned.

Also, back in Mt 12:2, it is noted that the Pharisees were making accusations against His disciples for picking corn on the Sabbath day.

Here Jesus is asked, "Is it lawful to heal on the sabbath days? that they might accuse him."

Time after time, the followers of the devil tried to find some thing or some way to discredit Jesus. They had hard, unrepentant hearts. But never, not even one time, were the followers of Satan able to gain the upper hand with their cunning devices, and tricks, and skillful accusings.

It is no different today, as unbelievers (whose thoughts are distorted and not biblically accurate) seek to discredit those that follow Jesus.

Many clergy are far from Jesus. They look like they are of God in the pulpits, but outside the church they are far from Christ.

When Christians that go door to door to witness to people often may find the police being called on them. They are sometimes

accused of trying to break into houses or trying to steal something. They are sometimes accused of trying to vandalize a vehicle outside of the house. And some of the people that make these lying accusations are positive they themselves are saved, yet they sometimes hate those that bring them the Gospel.

These temptations that Jesus endured began after He was baptized and went into the wilderness to fast. After His fast, Satan tempted Him three times, but with no success.

(Sabbath in Israel)

When a person is in Jerusalem in Israel, **as Friday evening** draws near, the traffic thins out greatly. The stores begin closing. In Jerusalem, by the time 6pm draws near, the streets are empty of buses, cars and taxi cabs, except for some Arab taxis. The light rail has stopped. The malls are closed down. The very popular Ben Yehuda pedestrian mall is silent.

However, Israeli sightseeing tours do not stop.

As has been said in **Mt 12:10**, And, behold, there was a man which had his hand withered (or shriveled) (there). And they asked (or questioned) him, saying, Is it lawful to heal on the **sabbath days**? (in order) that they might accuse him.

Mt 12:11. Jesus always recognized Satan's crafty temptations as the devil spoke through his followers.

All that claim they follow Jesus should be immersing themselves in God's Word, so they can know what is right and wrong. Followers of Jesus need to know how to use God's Word to fight the devil in their thoughts and through worldly things that confront them.

Regretfully, few spend much time in God's Word. Most preachers of this latter day,

Mt 12:11. And he said unto them, What man shall there be among you, that shall have one sheep, and if it fall (or falls) into a pit on the sabbath day, will he (or you) not lay (or take) hold on it, and lift it out?

lukewarm generation are not exhorting their congregations to put on the whole armor of God through devouring God's Word, as if it were more necessary than the food that they eat.

Through God's Word and the leading of the Holy Spirit (which are always in harmony), a person can usually recognize the various ways Satan works.

They can usually understand how to fight and defeat Satan in their thoughts and in many circumstances that occur.

The **Word of God is the key to defeating Satan's** many, many, many attacks that come through our thoughts, and through all sorts of situations.

The Pharisees had asked Jesus: "Is it lawful to heal on the sabbath days? that they might accuse him."

He responded by asking them a question. Jesus said: "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?"

These words appear to have left the accusers with no response. But then Jesus did not stop there. He continued with the words in verse 12.

As has been said in **Mt 12:11**, And he said unto them, What man shall there be among you, that shall have one sheep, and if it fall (or falls) into a pit on the sabbath day, will he (or you) not lay (or take) hold on it, and lift it out?

Mt 12:12. He asked those that sought to accuse Him: How much then is a man better than a sheep? Again, it appears they had no answer, for if they would admit they would certainly rescue their sheep, then they most certainly would help a man that had a defective

Mt 12:12. How much (more valuable) then is a man better than a sheep? Wherefore (or so then) it is lawful to do well (or good) on the sabbath days (or sabbath).

hand.

The words of Jesus appear to have left His accusers speechless, time after time, as He showed them the error of their thinking. Time after time, they sought to trap Jesus, but, time after time, it was they themselves that were trapped by their own words.

(Children of God want correction)

This is how they can grow. God's Word is the Word of correction. When a person comes to Jesus, they are very, very worldly or carnal. Through much Bible study, and hearing God's Word, and daily repenting, slowly a person begins to mature into a more mature follower of God's Word.

However, because of the very shallow teaching in most pulpits, and the lack of individual Bible study most people do—very, very few ever advance to the meat of God's Word.

(Trap Jesus in His words)

One might consider that, over and over, no person was able to trap Jesus in His words in any way. Rather, over and over, those that opposed Him were being openly defeated and sometimes were entrapped by their own words. One can see how their anger must have been growing and growing, until, finally, they sought to put Jesus to death.

There was nothing the Pharisees could say or do to defeat Jesus in any way. The logic of Jesus was perfect or flawless.

As has been said in **Mt 12:12**, How much (more valuable) then is a man better than a sheep? Wherefore (or so then) it is lawful to do well (or good) on the sabbath days (or Sabbath).

Mt 12:13. Then saith he to the man, Stretch forth (or stretch out) thine (or your) hand. And (so) he stretched it forth (or stretched it out); and

Mt 12:13. Jesus then healed the man's withered hand. A great miracle had happen. One might think that many people beholding this

it was (completely) restored whole (or normal) (or as sound), like as the other.

Mt 12:14. Then the Pharisees went out, and held a council (or consulted) (together) (or plotted) against him, (as to) how they might destroy (or kill) him.

wonderful miracle would have rejoiced and glorified God, and that the religious leaders would have also rejoiced and glorified God. After all, tomorrow it might be one of them that would need to be healed. But what did the Pharisees do?

As it has been in **Mt 12:13**, Then saith he to the man, Stretch forth (or stretch out) thine (or your) hand. And (so) he stretched it forth (or stretched it out); and it was (completely) restored whole (or normal) (or as sound), like as the other.

Mt 12:14. Instead of rejoicing and praising God, the evil, religious leaders held a meeting to discuss how they might destroy Jesus. They were, as we may say, enraged. Their hatred toward God was such that they wished to kill Jesus. They hated correction, as many people do now also.

We may say that some of the few **churches** in America that dare to speak the Word of God with power and authority, as Jesus did, have found themselves in need of attorneys. They have sometimes found that just as Jesus was falsely accused, so they are also falsely accused. Some have found that some visitors to their church can be modern-day Pharisees seeking to destroy the few churches that dare to preach about sin, repentance, the judgments, hell, and the lake of fire.

They have also found that many people listen, but then never return as they do not like to hear about their sin and judgment.

Who could have ever thought that this could happen in the United States?

The religious leaders (the pharisees and scribes) despised correction

Do you despise correction? If you do, something is very wrong with your walk with

Jesus, as the Bible itself is the Word of correction.

Refusing good, sound, Bible teaching revealed they were very unsaved. It is no different today.

The blindness and hardness of a person's heart towards the Gospel blinds them.

Their future is the lake of fire, but this also they do not comprehend until their physical body dies. Then, as they are in hell awaiting the final judgment, they understand, for Satan no longer blinds their thinking.

They knew that no man could do these miracles that Jesus did, except God be with Him; yet, they wanted to destroy Him.

As Satan wanted to kill the only begotten Son of God, so did many of the devil's followers.

As Satan wants to silence those that teach God's Word in the way Jesus did, so do many of the deceiver's followers.

In trying to destroy Jesus, they destroyed their only hope of escaping the lake of fire.

In trying to destroy a follower of Jesus, they are destroying themselves as it is written:

Mt 25:40, 45-46-And the King shall answer and say unto them, Verily I say unto you, Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me. Then shall he answer them, saying, Verily I say unto you, Inasmuch as ye did it not to one of the least of these, ye did it not to me. And these shall go away into everlasting punishment: but the righteous into life eternal.

The almost total rejection of Jesus by the religious establishment was no surprise to

Mt 12:15. But when Jesus knew it (or was aware of this), he withdrew himself from thence (or from that place): and great multitudes followed him, and he healed them all (or healed all their sick);

Jesus.

The almost total rejection that a professing, born again Christian will find in most churches in these latter days is also no surprise.

It may be said that pastors that preach a cold, or lukewarm message (which are most), do not want their flocks to be tempted to become on fire for Jesus. They don't want their boat to be rocked.

These events took place approximately 18 months after Jesus was baptized.

As has been said in **Mt 12:14**, Then the Pharisees went out, and held a council (or consulted) (together) (or plotted) against him, (as to) how they might destroy (or kill) him.

Mt 12:15. In some way, Jesus learned about the meeting of the Pharisees. When Jesus learned that the Pharisees had held a meeting on how they might destroy Him, He changed locations.

Despite moving to another location, a huge number of people followed after Him.

All, not just some, that needed healing, got healed. From the lepers to those that were paralyzed, all were made well. Jesus has great compassion to those that will seek Him above all other things.

His fame kept spreading.

It appears the religious leaders were beginning to think that the whole world was starting to go after Jesus.

The religious leaders loved to be greeted in the market places.

They loved the praise of men. They loved the

Mt 12:16. And charged (or warned) them that they should not make him known (or not to tell who he was).

notoriety they had.

But, now, people were going after Jesus.

In addition, Jesus did not hesitate to warn the people about the religious leaders and their corrupt ways.

This just added fuel to the fire.

Jesus was hated by the religious establishment.

His teaching and miracles was threatening the notoriety and positions of authority that the Pharisees had enjoyed for a long time.

As has been said in **Mt 12:15**, But when Jesus knew it (or was aware of this), he withdrew himself from thence (or from that place): and great multitudes followed him, and he healed them all (or healed all their sick);

Mt 12:16. Jesus commanded those that followed Him that they should not make Him known. They should not publicize where He was.

Jesus knows the things that be of men.

He knew the religious leaders' deep hatred toward Him, and He understood the reason.

Some of the words that Jesus spoke at various times were very offensive to the religious establishment.

He exposed their corrupt works. As it is written: Mark 12:38-40-And he said unto them in his doctrine, Beware of the scribes, which love to go in long clothing, and love salutations in the marketplaces, And the chief seats in the synagogues, and the uppermost rooms at feasts: Which devour widows' houses, and for a pretense make long prayers: these shall receive

greater damnation (also ref Lk 20:46,47).

When Jesus had charged the people that they should not make Him known, their obedience was being tested.

Life is a test for each person. It is not those that say they believe in Jesus that shall inherit eternal life. It is those that believe and obey His Word. It is those that will pick up their cross and follow Jesus. The number of people that follow God's Word are few. After all, how can a person obey God's Word, when they spend little time studying it?

The emphasis in this latter day, lukewarm generation of many preachers, both in the pulpits and on the TV and radio, is this—say a sinner's prayer, and you are eternally saved.

The emphasis on giving money to television ministries is huge.

However the emphasis on **Bible reading** is lacking.

Emphasis on **many things** in the Bible is lacking.

Emphasis on **repentance** is lacking.

Emphasis on getting **baptized** in water, after repentance, is almost non-existent

Emphasis on **following Jesus** is almost non-existent.

Emphasis on **obeying God's Word** is almost non-existent.

Emphasis on the **Revelation** and on the **signs of the times** of these latter days is lacking.

Emphasis on the **judgments, hell, and the lake of fire** is almost non-existent.

Emphasis on **loving** the preacher in the church down the street, who is a brother in Christ, is lacking.

The emphasis on **denying oneself, and taking up their cross and following Jesus** (which is the Word) appears to be non-existent.

The emphasis on telling the rich man to

Mt 12:17. That it might be fulfilled (or this was to fulfill) which was spoken by (or through) Esaias (or Isaiah) the prophet, saying,

Mt 12:18. Behold (here is) my servant, whom I have chosen; my beloved (or the One I love), in whom my soul is well pleased (or in Whom I delight): I will put my spirit upon him, and he shall shew (or proclaim) judgment (or justice) to the Gentiles (or nations).

forsake all to follow Jesus does not appear to exist in these latter days.

Conclusion: The preaching in this LATTER DAY GENERATION is, at best, only lukewarm.

As Mt 12:16 had said: And charged them that they should not make him known. Their obedience was being tested. Few passed this test as their emotions were such that they wanted to publicize the good news of Jesus and the miracles.

As has been said in **Mt 12:16**, And charged (or warned) them that they should not make him known (or not to tell who He was).

Mt 12:17. This is the first of 5 verses.

Esaias is another name for the prophet Isaiah. Esaias means "God is salvation." Jesus states that the prophet Isaiah first spoke the following words as revealed in Mt 12:18.

As it has been said in **Mt 12:17**, That it might be fulfilled (or this was to fulfill) which was spoken by (or through) Esaias (or Isaiah) the prophet, saying,

Mt 12:18. Ref Isa 42:1-BEHOLD, MY SERVANT, WHOM I UPHOLD; MINE ELECT, IN WHOM MY SOUL DELIGHTETH; I HAVE PUT MY SPIRIT UPON HIM: HE SHALL BRING FORTH JUDGMENT TO THE GENTILES.

The first part is BEHOLD MY SERVANT. This is God the Father speaking of Jesus. Jesus, as a servant, became a living sacrifice.

WHOM I UPHOLD, or Whom I have chosen.
MY BELOVED, or the One I (the Father) love.
IN WHOM MY SOUL IS WELL PLEASED, or in Whom I (the Father) delight.

Jesus is His Beloved, in Whom His soul was greatly pleased and delighted in.

Jesus was a servant like no one had ever been before.

God is saying: I WILL PUT MY SPIRIT UPON HIM. God the Father will put His Spirit upon Jesus.

This reveals the Trinity.

1-God the Father.

2-My Spirit, God the Holy Spirit.

3-Upon Him, which is Jesus, God the Son.

This happened in Mt 3:16. As it is written: And Jesus, when he was baptized, went up straightway out of the water: and, lo, the heavens were opened unto him, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove, and **lighting upon him.**

Then, the verse says: HE SHALL SHOW (or reveal) JUDGEMENT TO THE GENTILES, or He will proclaim justice or the way of righteousness to the nations.

In declaring this, it reveals that it was not only the Jews that He came for, but also the Gentiles. This was hard for the apostles to comprehend, until Acts 10:45 and 11:18 occurred, as the Holy Spirit was poured out on the nations, and they had received the Word of God.

It had to be to the Jew first, yes, but then to the nations of the world-ref Ro 1:16; Ro 2:9.

Jesus came to his own, but His own received Him not.

Regarding the Spirit **lighting upon Jesus**, it is also written in Jn 3:34-For He whom God hath sent speaketh the words of God: for God giveth not the Spirit by measure unto him.

Before Jesus came, could man understand the **judgments** of God? Now that Jesus has come and died on the cross for the sins of those that would trust in Him, we can understand His

righteous judgments and love that is beyond all understanding.

Ro 5:8-12-But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us. Much more then, being now justified by his blood, we shall be saved from wrath through him. For if, when we were enemies, we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son, much more, being reconciled, we shall be saved by his life. And not only so, but we also joy in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, by whom we have now **received the atonement**. Wherefore, as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned.

God's **judgment** upon mankind is this: Mercy and love to those that trust in Christ and follow Him. Eternal damnation to all that reject His mercy and love as demonstrated on the cross.

After He was crucified and buried, He arose from the dead and now sits on the right hand of God the Father making intercession for those that place their trust in Him, both Jews and Gentiles.

WHAT WOULD HAPPEN?

What might happen in this lukewarm generation, if a minister preached only God's Word as Jesus did---that is, pointing out specific areas people needed to repent and with power?

And they preached God's Word, not as one simply reading Scripture like one might buy on a cassette.

To the best of our knowledge, this is what might happen.

Gradually, Sunday after Sunday, less and less people might come, until the only ones remaining would be those real Christians that

Mt 12:19. He shall not strive (or quarrel), nor cry (out); neither shall any man (or no one will) hear his voice in the streets.

loved God's Word and were doers of God's Word and not hearers only.

Changing the subject for just a moment, let us consider this. When the Rapture (or caught up, or translation) comes in the near future, how many will be taken? The Scriptures indicate that it will be only a few. Most that are positive they will be taken will be left behind. One must become a doer of Gods Word, not a hearer only. A Christian is to serve God, not just go to church and then do nothing. Serving God begins with devouring His Word, and then doing the works of God as He reveals what to do.

As has been said in **Mt 12:18**, Behold (here is) my servant, whom I have chosen; my beloved (or the one I love), in whom my soul is well pleased (or in whom I delight): I will put my spirit upon him, and he shall shew (or proclaim) judgment (or justice) to the Gentiles (or nations).

Mt 12:19. Ref Isa 42:2-HE SHALL NOT CRY, NOR LIFT UP, NOR CAUSE HIS VOICE TO BE HEARD IN THE STREET.

Jesus shall not quarrel or cry out. No one will hear His voice in the streets.

Note the key words: not strive, nor cry, or shout loudly in the streets.

Jesus did not come to stir up a revolution.
He did not come to force people to hear Him.
He did not come seeking power.
He did not come to reign and rule at this time.
He did not come to bring in the Kingdom as many thought.
He did not come to force people to worship Him.

In the first part of the verse in Mt 12:19, the word "strive" precedes the word cry. However this word is not used in the KJV of Isaiah 42:2.

The first part of this verse in Matthew is: HE

SHALL NOT STRIVE (or quarrel) NOR CRY (out). Jesus was attacked by the religious establishment on many occasions. All manner of false accusations were used to try and discredit him. Jesus did reveal the error of what they said, but He did not strive with them. He did correct them and show them the error of their thoughts and words; and they hated this.

The second part is: NEITHER SHALL ANY MAN (or no one will) HEAR HIS VOICE IN THE STREETS.

Jesus did not exalt Himself. He was not into self promotion. He exalted His Father which is in heaven.

Jn 10:24,25-The Jews therefore surrounded him, and said to him, How long will you keep us in suspense? How long dost thou make us doubt? If thou art the Christ, say [so] to us openly.

Jesus had taught the words of God. Jesus had healed the blind.

In Jn 9:35-37, Jesus had said He was the Son of God.

Yet the people still did not believe.

Jesus answered them, I told you, and ye do not believe. The works which I do in my Father's name, these bear witness concerning me. ...Jesus had done so many miracles.

John 1:10-12-He was in the world, and the world was made by him, and the **world knew him not**. He came unto his own, and his own received him not. But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name.

It is no different today. Humanity has the Bible, sixty-six books. All perfect. Never has any

Mt 12:20. A bruised reed shall he not break, and smoking (or smoldering) flax (or wick) shall he not quench (or snuff [or put] out), (un) til he send forth (or leads) judgment (or justice) unto victory.

person ever found even 1 error or contradiction in the bible, though many have tried. Experts have spent great amounts of time in Israel checking out places described in the Bible. Never one error has ever been found, not even one.

As has been said in **Mt 12:19**, He shall not strive (or quarrel), nor cry (out); neither shall any man (or no one will) hear his voice in the streets.

Mt 12:20. The end of the verse has also been translated (or not strike back till judgment).

Gentleness is portrayed here.

Jesus had said in verse 19:

He shall not strive, nor cry; neither shall any man hear his voice in the streets. Now He follows that with verse 20. Verse 20 refers back to the Old Testament with words from Isaiah.

He will not snap off a broken reed or snuff out a smoldering wick-JNT.

Part 1.

Ref Isa 42:3-A **BRUISED REED SHALL HE NOT BREAK.**

This is a certain type of vegetation that can grow in certain marshlands in Israel where the birds may stop as they are flying south.

The reed was used by those that attended sheep to make a small musical instrument.

A reed that is bruised or broken or cracked cannot bring forth a good melody.

Once it became cracked, it was good for nothing.

He (Jesus) will not break so much as a reed that is bruised.

He does not involve himself in back and forth open conflicts.

Jesus quickly silenced his enemies time after

time.

Jesus is mercy.

Part 2.

The next part of what Jesus spoke is this:

AND A **SMOKING FLAX** (or wick) SHALL HE NOT QUENCH (or snuff out):

The smell of a smoking wick is not pleasant.

Jesus shall not put out even a wick that is smoking.

A wick, that is still smoking, does not produce a good smell.

A smoldering wick was useless for producing any light.

Such was Israel and such is an unrepentant sinner. The people were good for nothing as a bruised reed or a smoking flax.

Israel was in unbelief. It was in rebellion against God. Certain cities in Israel were even worse than Sodom and Gomorrah.

The bruised reed and the flax that is smoking can also portray a weak believer, a lukewarm follower of Jesus, a non-committed Christian, a fearful and timid Christian that does not overcome.

Such a person may be a Christian that is disobedient.

However, Christ's work was to restore them, not to break them or quench them-ref 2 Thes 3:14,15.

Jesus did not come to call the righteous to repentance, but the broken, the humble, the meek.

Part 3.

The verse continues: (till) HE SHALL BRING FORTH (or leads) **JUDGMENT** (or justice) UNTO TRUTH (or unto victory).

The end of it all, is judgment. When judgment is done, there is truth, peace, or a victory.

"The" victory happened on the cross, as Jesus took upon Himself the sins of all that would trust in Him.

There is victory when one trusts in Jesus for their salvation.

Israel was judged. They were destroyed in 70 AD, when Titus destroyed the city of Jerusalem. An estimated million Jews were killed, and others became slaves. They were scattered all over the world.

There was victory when, against impossible odds, Israel became a nation again on May 14, 1948.

There has been victory in the 1967 and 1973 wars as nearby nations sought to destroy Israel.

There is **victory** when Jesus returns at the time of Armageddon. All rebellion is crushed and put down in one day.

Truth shall prevail. Satan is cast into the bottomless pit, and a seal is put on him. Thus, he cannot deceive the nations or people any longer until the Millennium has expired.

There is victory when the Judgment of the Nations takes place. Justice shall prevail. Jesus will not strike back till the Judgment.

The bruised reed had been broken, but repaired.

The smoking flax had been extinguished, but relit.

Consider: **Lies** want to kill truth.
Lies want deceit to prevail.
However, **truth** wants to save.
Truth wants honesty to prevail.

The end of it all is victory, when Satan is cast

Mt 12:21. And in His name shall the Gentiles (or nations) trust (or will put their hope).

Mt 12:22. Then was brought unto him one possessed with a devil (or a demon possessed man), (who was) blind, and dumb (or mute): and he (Jesus) healed him, insomuch that the blind and dumb both spake (or could talk) and saw (or see).

into the lake of fire; and there comes forth a New Heaven and a New Earth wherein dwelleth righteousness.

As has been said in **Mt 12:20**, A bruised reed shall he not break, and smoking (or smoldering) flax (or wick) shall he not quench (or snuff [or put] out), (un) til he send forth (or leads) judgment (or justice) unto victory.

Mt 12:21. There has never been a time, thus far, when the nations of the world have put their trust in the name of Jesus.

However, following the Battle of Armageddon, those that are left will put their trust in Jesus, as He reigns as the King of kings and Lord of lords.

The earth in those days that are yet to come will be a far different place. The world will love the Jews.

As has been said in **Mt 12:21**, And in His name shall the Gentiles (or nations) trust (or will put their hope).

The ministry of Jesus began when He was about 30 years of age.

It lasted approximately 3 years.

Chapter 12 verses 22 to 50 takes place approximately 23 months after He began His ministry.

Mt 12:22. Then there was brought to Jesus a person that was possessed by a devil or demon. This person was both **blind** and **dumb**, which would indicate that it may have been impossible to communicate with him. Those that brought him must have believed Jesus could heal this person.

The condition of the person was horrible. It would seem this person would have been incapable of understanding anything.

Mt 12:23. And all the people (or multitudes) were amazed (or astonished), and said (or began to say), Is not this the son of David? (or could this be the Son of David?)

After he was brought to Jesus, Jesus healed him. Then the person could see and speak.

A bit further on in verse 38, the Pharisees had said: Master, we would see a sign from thee. This appears to be in the same time period. It seems that the blind and dumb person Jesus healed should have been all the proof they needed, but this did not seem to be the case.

It reveals that no matter how great the miracles were, some people would never believe.

As has been said in **Mt 12:22**, Then was brought unto him one possessed with a devil (or a demon possessed man), (who was) blind, and dumb (or mute): and he (Jesus) healed him, insomuch that the blind and dumb both spake (or could talk) and saw (or see).

Mt 12:23. Back in Mt 12:15, it is noted that great multitudes were following Jesus. Thus, when this miracle happened, the number of people that were amazed were many, even, it appears, a great multitude. The people said, Is not this the Son of David. In saying this, they were saying that this was the long awaited Messiah whose ancestry was to come through that of David. Indeed, the ancestry of Jesus fits every scripture perfectly.

The Pharisees, lawyers, scribes, and others would have already checked the ancestry of Jesus to see if He met the requirements to be the Messiah. They would have already known that He did.

They could not find any way to accuse or discredit Him. The only recourse they might have is that they would have to make up lies about Him, or find something He did or said to discredit Him.

Their hatred toward Jesus is not unlike today. They do not want Jesus, which is God's Word,

to reign over them. They do not want to repent.

CURSING

Consider, at any given second, how many people throughout the world just cursed and took in vain the name of Jesus.

How many people in the world, at any given second, just attached the word "damn" to the name of God?

Why do people curse God's name?

Why does it not occur to them to curse the name of Satan? It is Satan that damns people, not God. Does anyone ever curse the name of Satan?

If a person does not believe in God, why then does he curse His name?

If a person that swears using God's name is asked this, they may just get more angry. They usually cannot answer why they curse the name of God, when they do not even believe in God.

As has been said in **Mt 12:23**, And all the people (or multitudes) were amazed (or astonished), and said (or began to say), Is not this the son of David? (or could this be the Son of David?)

Mt 12:24. This verse relates directly to Mt 12:32, which speaks of **the unforgivable sin**.

First observation is that the Pharisees revealed their belief in both demons and the devil.

First the Pharisees spoke of Jesus with contempt by calling him "This fellow."

Then the **Pharisees lied**. They spoke by their emotions prompted by the devil, which is their father. Regretfully, many people lie when they think it is to their advantage in some way.

Mt 12:24. But when the Pharisees heard it (or heard this), they said, **This fellow doth not cast out devils (or demons), but (only) by Beelzebub the prince (or ruler) of the devils (or demons).**

There is no fear of God before their eyes.

The religious leaders in their hatred toward Jesus would say most anything to try and turn people away from the One that sought to save their soul.

The Pharisees, in their hatred toward Jesus, did something that every human being must be most careful never, never, never to do.

With their words, they committed the sin that can never be forgiven.

They committed the most terrifying sin possible.

They just threw away any possible hope that they might ever be able to repent and be forgiven. They just sentenced themselves to eternal damnation. They were now doomed.

Regarding the subject of cursing, some people may have gone too far.

Some of what has been said needs repeating.

The Bible talks about the **unforgivable sin**.

This is a sin that if a person does it, hell and then the lake of fire are guaranteed.

It is a sin that can never be forgiven. No repentance is possible.

That sin is blasphemy against the Holy Spirit. Mt 12:24 to 32 covers this subject.

Again, hear this warning. The following warning is repeated back in Mt 9:32. **It is a warning everyone should take note of, lest a person in their anger and hate speak words and commit a sin that can never be forgiven.**

The Unforgivable Sin. Warning

It is written: Mt 12:31,32-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. 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.

It is also written in Mk 3:28-30-VERILY I SAY UNTO YOU, ALL SINS SHALL BE FORGIVEN UNTO THE SONS OF MEN, AND BLASPHEMIES WHEREWITH SOEVER THEY SHALL BLASPHEME: BUT HE THAT SHALL **BLASPHEME AGAINST THE HOLY GHOST HATH NEVER FORGIVENESS**, BUT IS IN DANGER OF ETERNAL DAMNATION: BECAUSE THEY SAID, HE HATH AN UNCLEAN SPIRIT.

This is further confirmed in the following. 1 Jn 5:16,17-...**THERE IS A SIN UNTO DEATH: I DO NOT SAY THAT HE SHALL PRAY FOR IT. ALL UNRIGHTEOUSNESS IS SIN: AND THERE IS A SIN NOT UNTO DEATH.**

What we call the unforgivable sin can be accomplished with your mouth. Note the word "speaketh" in Mt 12. It is further written in Mt 12:37-FOR BY THY WORDS THOU SHALT BE JUSTIFIED, AND **BY THY WORDS THOU SHALT BE CONDEMNED.**

What had caused Jesus to speak on this subject? Mt 12:22-24 tells us that there WAS BROUGHT UNTO (Jesus) ONE POSSESSED WITH A DEVIL, BLIND, AND DUMB: AND HE HEALED HIM, INSOMUCH THAT THE BLIND AND DUMB BOTH SPAKE AND SAW. AND ALL THE PEOPLE WERE AMAZED, AND SAID, IS NOT THIS THE SON OF DAVID? BUT WHEN THE PHARISEES HEARD IT, THEY SAID, THIS

FELLOW DOETH NOT CAST OUT DEVILS, BUT BY BEELZEBUB THE PRINCE OF THE DEVILS.

Jesus replied in v.28- BUT IF I CAST OUT DEVILS BY THE SPIRIT OF GOD, THEN THE KINGDOM OF GOD IS COME UNTO YOU. Jesus then proceeded to say the words listed above about the unforgivable sin.

What had these emotional, unsaved, religious leaders said or done to sentence themselves to eternal death? They had attributed the works of the Spirit of God to the devil, when they accused Jesus Christ of casting out devils by the prince of the devils. They had blasphemed AGAINST THE HOLY GHOST. They had spoken AGAINST THE HOLY GHOST.

(There are some that believe this sin cannot be committed today, because Jesus is not physically present.)

As verse 24 had said: But when the Pharisees heard it, they said, This fellow doeth not cast out devils, but by Beelzebub the prince of the devils.

Those thoughts came to them by the devil. Then they spoke and their words condemned them to eternity in the lake of fire.

Yet how many churches are warning their membership about this subject?

As has been said in **Mt 12:24**, But when the Pharisees heard it (or heard this), they said, **This fellow doeth not cast out devils (or demons), but (only) by Beelzebub the prince (or ruler) of the devils (or demons).**

Mt 12:25. Jesus knew their thoughts. He also knows yours.

Division is a tool Satan uses very successfully in many denominations, churches, and even

Mt 12:25. And Jesus knew their thoughts, and said unto them, Every kingdom **divided against** itself is brought to desolation (or will be ruined) (or is laid waste); and every city or house (or household) divided against itself shall not stand:

Bible schools.

Pastors and assistant pastors disagree.

Pastors and the board of directors disagree.

Husbands and wives disagree.

Parents and their children disagree.

God gives a chain of command that is to be followed.

This verse reveals Satan has a kingdom.

Jesus now begins a defense against the lying accusations that the religious leaders were having.

Jesus then reveals to us that: every kingdom, every city, every house that is divided against itself shall not stand.

But, let it not be forgotten: Satan is a master of putting lying thoughts into people's minds that cause division. As it is written: Rev 12:9-Satan, which deceiveth the whole world. This includes you.

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

Most of the Bible-believing and teaching churches of today are referred to in the Scriptures as the church of the LAODICEANS. This is the last church age before the Rapture. It is also called the latter day church.

The word "latter," referring to these times, is never used in the Bible prior to Israel's rebirth, which was 1948.

Within this umbrella are many denominations. Out of perhaps 250 churches, there may be no more than one that will, through God's Word, tell you what you are hopefully reading.

A wife accuses her husband of having an affair.

A husband does the same with his wife. They are divided. Children become hostile toward

their parents, and parents become hostile toward their children. They are divided.

Accusing is a way of life with many.

It is written: Rev 12:10-And I heard a loud voice saying in heaven, Now is come salvation, and strength, and the kingdom of our God, and the power of his Christ: **for the accuser of our brethren is cast down**, which accused them before our God day and night.

Where do these many accusing thoughts you have come from? You probably think it is from your own personal thoughts. The answer is that **it is Satan**.

If you could only understand this. During the Millennium, Satan will not be able to deceive anyone, as he will be in the pit and sealed.

If this happened right now, you and the whole world would be astonished. This is because many of the thoughts you have right now are put there by the devil, including the one that says, "This is not so."

Every thought you have that makes you believe the Bible is not 100% true is from Satan; but you think it is your own thoughts. Satan puts the thought in your mind, then your heart wants to agree with it; and, thus, you choose to believe it, even though it is not true.

Hear God's Word. It is written: Rev 12:9,10-And the great dragon was cast out, that old serpent, called the Devil, and **Satan, which deceiveth the whole world**: he was cast out into the earth, and his angels were cast out with him. And I heard a loud voice saying in heaven, Now is come salvation, and strength, and the kingdom of our God, and the power of his Christ: **for the accuser of our brethren is cast down**, which accused them before our God day and night.

Satan is greatly, greatly, greatly underestimated. And if you believe otherwise, you are deceived.

Consider the following.

During the Millennium, with Satan bound in the Bottomless Pit, there will be world peace. The world will love the Jews. People will love each other. Love shall abound everywhere.

But, then, after the thousand years are expired, Satan is set free. Immediately, he goes forth to deceive the nations once again. This time he has no angels to assist him. He has no demons to help him.

Instantly, by his deceptive powers alone, he is able to deceive the whole world, whose numbers are as the sand of the sea.

Again, the world is deceived. For 1000 years, they had loved the Jews. They had loved Jesus, as He had reigned as King of kings and Lord of lords. There was world peace.

Then, instantly, their heart is filled with hatred for the Jews.

The world surrounds the camp of the saints and the beloved city. Then fire comes down from God out of heaven and devours them.

At this time, Satan is cast into the lake of fire, where most people will also go for eternity. There is no Purgatory. Search the Scriptures and see for yourself. Will you be there also? It is a place of darkness and eternal torment. You can expect some kind of worms will be covering you also, unless you repent and turn from your sinful ways and OBEY GOD'S WORD AND FOLLOW JESUS.

Why can't people understand the lying

thoughts they have are from the devil? Even because they cannot.

Why don't many preachers teach on this? People don't study their Bible as they ought. Preachers do not preach as they ought.

Most clergy are so biblically illiterate, it is disgraceful.

How much does your church teach, regarding how Satan deceives, plus sin, hell, and the lake of fire?

The very fact that many churches never teach anything about Satan and how he deceives demonstrates the power Satan has to deceive.

A preacher has a thought to teach about the devil. Immediately, a second thought follows that brings fear. It is fear that if he does, he may lose some of his members. So he does what Satan wants him to do—he does not teach about Satan and the demonic realm and how they deceive people. He does not teach about hell. He does not teach about the judgments. He does not vigorously encourage his members to read their Bible.

Divisions are usually from the devil. Every thought, every motive behind everything a person does and speaks is known by God.

Nothing is hidden from God. As it is written: And **Jesus knew their thoughts.**

As has been said in **Mt 12:25**, And Jesus knew their thoughts, and said unto them, Every kingdom **divided against** itself is brought to desolation (or will be ruined) (or is laid waste); and every city or house (or household) divided against itself shall not stand:

Mt 12:26. Back in verse 24, the Pharisees had committed the unforgivable sin by indicating that Jesus had cast out devils by the prince of the devils, which is Satan.

Mt 12:26. And if Satan cast out (or drives out) Satan, he is divided against himself; how shall then his kingdom stand?

Mt 12:27. And if I by **Beelzebub** cast out (or drive out) devils, by whom do your children (or sons) (or people) cast (or drive) them out? therefore (or consequently) they shall be your judges.

They had committed the unforgivable sin in saying this.

Jesus now responds by saying: If Satan cast out Satan, he is divided against himself; how shall then his kingdom stand? He was saying, is Satan going to fight against himself?

He was showing them that the statement they made could not be true.

The Bible warns Christians—do not underestimate your enemy the devil.

Mt 12:27. This verse does not verify that the Pharisees cast out devils.

In this verse, Jesus asks 2 questions and combines it with a 3 statements.

Jesus said, If I by Beelzebub (which is Satan) cast out devils.

He never said he did, but rather uses this statement to provide a foundation for what He was about to say.

He went on to say: by whom do your children (or sons) (or people) cast (or drive) them out?

In other words, by whom do your followers cast them out.

He never said one way or the other that their children did cast out devils.

No answer came forth that is recorded to the question Jesus asked in this verse, "by whom do your children cast devils out?"

This appears to have been said to make a point.

If they would have answered, they undoubtedly would have said that it was by the power of God.

The fact was they did not cast out devils, and neither did their children. The children of Satan do not cast out Satan.

Satan does use all sorts of deceptions to deceive. As such, he could make it appear that the Pharisees could cast out devils.

Devils are cast out by the Spirit of God, which is mentioned in the next verse.

Jesus may have been saying, in a manner of speaking, that if you believe such people as exorcists work by God's power in casting out demons, then why wouldn't you believe that I have the same kind of power?

By casting out demons Jesus was proving that he was greater than Satan. He is able to go into the strong man's house and spoil his goods. and come out victorious.

If he was using Satan's power, he could not offer them the kingdom of God.

The fact that he had come to establish the kingdom of God revealed that he could not be working by Satan's power.

The King (Jesus) had the power to bind Satan and the demons. He had power over them.

So-called exorcisms, if and when they ever appear to work can be easily understood that an evil spirit can come out, but then go back in again just to deceive.

As has been said in **Mt 12:27**, And if I by **Beelzebub** cast out (or drive out) devils, by whom do your children (or sons) (or people) cast (or drive) them out? therefore (or consequently) they shall be your judges.

Mt 12:28. But if I cast (or drive) out devils (or

Mt 12:28. Now Jesus reveals, through a

demons) by the **Spirit of God**, then the **kingdom of God** is come unto you (or has come upon you).

question, the power He had to cast out devils. That power was by the Spirit of God.

The Spirit of God is part of the Godhead: The Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost. The Spirit of God is mentioned in the Bible 26 times.

In the Old Testament, the Spirit of God came upon people.

In the New Testament, the Spirit of God dwells in you (if you are born again)-Ro 8:9.

It was obvious that Jesus did have this power by the Spirit of God to cast out devils. Thus, He was telling the unbelieving, religious leaders that this was proof that the kingdom of God had come unto them.

Jesus is the Kingdom of God. Jesus is the King. Jesus had come and was present, but they rejected Him.

Understanding the difference between the **KINGDOM OF GOD** and the **KINGDOM OF HEAVEN** seems elusive.

The Kingdom of God is mentioned in the KJV Bible 69 times. They appear in the following: Mt, Mk, Lk, Acts, Ro, 1 Cor, Gal, Col, and 2 Thes.

On several occasions both the Kingdom of God and the Kingdom of Heaven use the approximate same wording.

The Kingdom of Heaven is mentioned in the KJV Bible 31 times. They are all in Matthew's Gospel.

THE KINGDOM OF GOD.

The X indicates both Kingdom of God and Kingdom of Heaven appear to use the same words.

Unofficial survey. General Info:

At hand: 2 times X
Come unto you: 1 time
Come with power: 1 time
Come. Should come: 1 time
Cometh: 1 time
Concerning: 1 time
Eat bread in: 1 time
Enter: 4 times
Enter. Not enter: 5 times
Fulfilled in: 1 time
Go in: 1 time
Inherit: 4 times
Is preached: 1 time
In: 3 times
Is come nigh: 2 times
Is come upon: 1 time
Is like: 5 times X
Least in: 1 time X
Mystery of: 2 times X
Not far from: 1 time
Not fit for: 1 time
Parable: 1 time
Pertaining to or concerning: 2 times
Power: 1 time
Preach: 6 times
Receive it: 1 time
See: 1 time
Seek first: 1 time
Seek ye 1 time
Shall come: 1 time
Should appear: 1 time
Sit in: 1 time X
Speak of: 1 time
Such is it: 1 time X
Taken from you: 1 time
Testified: 1 time
Tidings of: 1 time
Unto: 1 time
Waited for: 2 times
Worthy of: 1 time
Yours is: 1 time.

THE KINGDOM OF HEAVEN.

The X indicates both Kingdom of God and

Kingdom of Heaven appear to use the same words.

Unofficial survey. General Info:

Greatest in: 1 time

At hand: 3 times X

Is it like: 13 times X

Keys of: 1 time

Least: 1 time X

Least is greater: 1 time X

Not enter: 3 times

Mysteries: 1 time X

Shall not enter: 1 time

Sit down in: 1 time X

Shut up: 1 time

Such is: 1 time X

Suffereth violence: 1 time

Theirs is: 1 time

Is there a difference? In some cases, the answer is no; however, in some cases, certain things are mentioned in one, but not the other.

Draw your own conclusion.

The Kingdom of Heaven and Kingdom of God is where the Father and the Son are at this time.

However, during the millennial kingdom, Jesus shall reign and rule on the earth for 1000 years. One might say, at that time, the Kingdom of God will also be on the earth. Jn 18:36-Jesus answered, My kingdom is not of this world: if my kingdom were of this world, then would my servants fight, that I should not be delivered to the Jews: but "**NOW**" is my kingdom not from hence.

This is what the people expected. They expected the millennial kingdom to appear, as the King had come.

Jesus was a threat to the authority of the religious leaders. He was not on their side. He was against them. They sought to kill Him and finally succeeded, but only after His time had come.

Mt 12:29. Or else (or again) how can one (or anyone) enter into a strong man's house, and spoil (or carry off) his goods (or property) (or possessions), except (or unless) he first binds (or ties up) the strong man? and then he will spoil (or plunder) (or rob) his house.

None saw, at this time, that the King would be crucified to pay for the sins of those that would follow and obey Him.

None understood there would be seven church ages, a "caught up," and then a period called the Tribulation.

None saw or understood there would be the Battle of Armageddon following the Tribulation, even though this battle is spoken of in many scriptures in the Old Testament.

None understood that Jesus would return as the King of kings, and Lord of lords during Armageddon and put down all rebellion. Then He would reign and rule for 1000 years as the Kings of kings and Lord of lords.

As has been said in **Mt 12:28**, But if I cast (or drive) out devils (or demons) by the **Spirit of God**, then the **kingdom of God** is come unto you (or has come upon you).

Mt 12:29. Jesus now asks a question. It can be put this way.

How can one enter into a house that is well protected with security?

How can a person take the goods from a house that is well guarded?

The only way one can successfully enter a well protected house is by neutralizing all of its security and tying up or binding the owner. Once this is accomplished, he can take all he wishes.

Satan has been given great powers to accomplish that which God has allowed. He has great powers of deception.

His powers of deception are so great that much of the world does not believe that he even

exists. Much of the world does not believe the Word of God, that is, the Bible. Much of the world has no interest in reading or hearing the actual words of God, Who created them.

Nevertheless, Satan cannot begin to match the power Jesus had and has.

Satan is the prince and power of the air.

Jesus got the victory over Satan at the cross.

However, the followers of Satan are many, while the followers of Jesus that have repented are, at this time, only a few, a very few.

The power Satan had over people was broken at the cross.

Thus, when a person repents and turns to Christ in faith, they are freed from the bondage of sin.

Nevertheless, Satan continues to try to get the repentant person to return to their old sinful ways.

To put it simply: There is a battle going on for every person's soul.

That battle rages in a person's thoughts and then their emotions.

Regretfully, the "fear of God" is greatly lacking in most people, even though the Bible tells us:

GOD IS GREATLY TO BE FEARED IN THE ASSEMBLY OF THE SAINTS-ref Ps 89:7.

Regarding "binding," note:

Mt 16:19; Mt 18:17-20; Lk 11:21-22; 1 Cor 5:5; Acts 13:11,12; 1 Tim 1:20.

As has been said in **Mt 12:29**, Or else (or

Mt 12:30. He that is not with me is against me; and he that gathereth not (or does not gather) with me scattereth abroad (or scatters).

again) how can one (or anyone) enter into a strong man's house, and spoil (or carry off) his goods (or property) (or possessions), except (or unless) he first binds (or ties up) the strong man? and then he will spoil (or plunder) (or rob) his house.

Mt 12:30. What kind of a relationship do you have with Jesus, not from your point of view, but from His point of view?

Multitudes and multitudes of people are positive they know Jesus, but at the Judgment He says to them, "I KNOW YOU NOT."

In this verse, Jesus makes a statement that seems to **condemn** Christians that are lukewarm.

Jesus said: **He that is not with me is AGAINST ME.**

If a person is not united with Jesus, he is in opposition to Christ.

There is no fence riding.

There is no middle ground.

There is no room for lukewarmness.

There is no provision made for "Saturday or Sunday only" Christians.

If you are not firmly for Christ, then you are classified as being against Christ.

If the Bible (which is Jesus) is not your guide, even your life, then you are in sinking sand. That sinking sand leads to eternity in the lake of fire.

It is a terrifying thing to be against Jesus, the Creator of all things. Most people in the world are not for Jesus, thus they are against Him, and many curse His name.

What a frightening thing it will be, when they (the false Christians and unbelievers) fall into

the hands of the "Living God!"

These two words are in the Bible about 30 times.

If a person does not receive Jesus, he has rejected Him. He is in opposition to Him.

There is no in between.

There is no neutral position with regards to the King of kings and Lord of lords.

He that does not obey God's Word and take up his cross and follow the Word of God is against Jesus.

Let us clarify who Jesus is: In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. And the Word was made flesh and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth-Jn 1:1, 14. Jesus is the Word of God.

Jn 12:48-He that rejecteth me, and receiveth not my words, hath one that judgeth him: the word that I have spoken, the same (that is, THE WORD) shall judge him in the last day.

Thus a person that is not with the Word, is not with Jesus. He is in opposition to Jesus.

He that gathereth not (or does not gather) with me scattereth abroad (or scatters).

Most people go to a church that does not have a born again pastor. They are so shallow in God's Word, they cannot begin to discern this.

They might even go to church twice a week. But when they leave the church, their church mask comes off, and their "of the world" attitude and face reappears. They may be a bit religious some of the time, but are not committed to Jesus, which is the Bible. Their life, hour by hour, and day by day, does not reflect Jesus in them. Their life does not reflect "being with

Jesus". Their life does not reflect that the Holy Spirit is inside them.

Their life is not the following. Phil 1:21-FOR TO ME, TO LIVE IS CHRIST (which is God's Word).

As they go from day to day, their thoughts are not centered in God's Word, but rather in this world.

Few are "with Christ." And if a person is not "with" Christ, Who is also the Word, then they are against Christ.

God's Word is clear cut. You are to be with Christ continually.

His Word is to be in you.
His Word is to guide you.

Phil 1:21-For to me **to live is Christ**, and to die is gain.

Ro 8:9-Now if any man have not the Spirit of Christ, he is none of his.

The next part of the verse is this: and **he that gathereth not with me (which is Jesus) scattereth abroad (or scatters). The unsaved scattereth.**

A person cannot be with Jesus and be against those that follow Jesus.

A person cannot love Christ without loving His disciples.

As already revealed, a person that is not with Jesus, he is against Jesus.

A wolf scatters the sheep. A wolf devours the sheep.

A person that gathers with Jesus and the

brethren in love, also should try to bring others to the Shepherd, but those that do not gather with Jesus do the opposite. They scatter abroad.

A so-called Christian, whose Bible collects dust, is not sold out to Jesus. They scatter.

A so-called Christian that only goes to church on Easter and Christmas is not sold out to Jesus. They scatter.

The Apostles gathered with Jesus.

The Pharisees and unbelievers did the opposite. They were not with Jesus. They were against Jesus. They gathered not with Jesus. They scattered abroad.

Beware: as there are many wolves that put on sheep's clothing and deceive multitudes and scatter them abroad.

In going to tens of thousands of houses, a team of many people knocked on doors. When the person that answered the door saw that the person was there to speak about Jesus, or saw the Bible in their hand, they became hard. Doors were slammed. Obscene language came from the occupant of the house. Sometimes the people called the police and made false accusations against them.

It is like the days of Jesus. Some of these people go to churches, but the love of God and the Bible is far, far, far from their heart. How about you?

Note what the verse does not say: He that is not against me is for me. Many do not believe they are against Jesus. They simply are indifferent or apathetic.

Let there be no misunderstanding.

Mt 12:31. Wherefore I say unto you (or tell you), All manner of (or every, or any) sin and blasphemy shall (or will) be forgiven unto men: but the **blasphemy against the Holy Ghost shall not be forgiven unto men.**

If your life, yes, **your very life is not centered in** God's Word, which is the Bible, then your life is not in Christ.

Repentance and trusting in Jesus Christ is the beginning. It is written: REPENT and be baptized (that is, by full immersion) EVERYONE...Acts 2:38.

As has been said in **Mt 12:30**, He that is not with me is against me; and he that gathereth not (or does not gather) with me scattereth abroad (or scatters).

Mt 12:31. This verse seems to relate back to verse 24.

Jesus begins with what are some of the **most terrifying words that exist.**

It is not about murder or terrifying acts of violence.

It is concerning **the words that come out of a person's mouth.**

It is words that guarantee a persons eternal existence will be in the lake of fire, and there is no hope of repentance in this life allowed.

Some of the religious leaders had committed **THE unforgivable sin.**

They had accused Jesus of casting out demons by the prince of the demons.

Jesus now relates words that are horribly terrifying.

He relates that all types of sin and blasphemy that men commit can be forgiven.

Wicked sexual sins, murder, stealing, lying, and pride can all be forgiven, if one repents and trusts in Jesus as his only hope of salvation.

Mt 12:32. And whosoever speaketh (or speaks) a word against the Son of man, it shall be forgiven him: but **whosoever speaketh (or speaks) against the Holy Ghost (or) (Holy Spirit), it shall not be forgiven him, neither in this world (or age), neither in the world (or age) to come.**

However, blasphemy against the Holy Ghost shall **never, ever be forgiven.**

Attributing the works of the Holy Ghost (such as casting out devils) to the the devil can never be forgiven.

Beware of what you speak. Beware, lest you be angry, and commit the sin that cannot ever be forgiven, such as the Pharisees did with their untrue accusation. Beware, lest your emotions and anger prompt your mouth to condemn you for eternity.

As has been said in **Mt 12:31**, Wherefore I say unto you (or tell you), All manner of (or every, or any) sin and blasphemy shall (or will) be forgiven unto men: but the **blasphemy against the Holy Ghost shall not be forgiven unto men.**

Mt 12:32. Verse 31 spoke of "blaspheming" against the Holy Ghost.

In verse 32 it tells of "speaking" against the Holy Ghost.

Verse 32 appears to sum up some of the previous verses. Taking verse 32 along with other verses, the following can be concluded.

A person can speak against God and Jesus.

A person may even curse the name of God and Jesus.

But then, if a person repents and places their trust in Jesus Christ, it shall be forgiven him.

However, if any person speaks against the Holy Ghost, or if any person blasphemes against the Holy Ghost, **that person shall never be forgiven.**

The end result may be said to be this. **That person will never have a desire to be saved,**

if they have committed the unforgivable sin.

Jn 6:43-No man can come to me, except the Father which hath sent me draw him: and I will raise him up at the last day.

It is good to fear God and depart from evil.

When a person is saved because of repentance and through faith, they receive the Holy Ghost. It is written: REPENT AND BE BAPTIZED EVERYONE OF YOU...AND YE SHALL RECEIVE THE GIFT OF THE HOLY GHOST-ref Acts 2:38.

Every person has an eternal existence.

When a person's life is over on this earth, they either go to be with Jesus, or they go to a place called hell which is a waiting place for the Great White Throne Judgment.

Their life does not cease. A person's earthly body will decay and pass away, but the soul and spirit of a person lives on.

The vast majority will have everlasting damnation.

There have been numerous people throughout history that have died, but then came back to life. Their testimonies have confirmed they were still alive. However, man's testimony means little. God's Word is never wrong.

The verse ends with the words "the world or age to come."

As already shown, all people will live forever.

The question that is before us all is—**where will we spend forever and ever?**

The vast majority will be in the lake of fire, and shall be tormented day and night forever and

ever.

A few (a very small percentage) shall be with Jesus forever and ever.

(Churches)
(Guidelines)

How can we know if a church is following the Bible? It would take a large amount of dialogue to answer this. Here are a few guidelines.

If they do not believe we are saved by faith in Jesus Christ, apart from all works, something is wrong.

If they do not believe and confess that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh---something is wrong.

If they do not do water baptism by full immersion in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost—depart from that church. Do not make the mistake of trying to speak with the pastor or priest about this. Just quietly leave.

If they do not believe in the Rapture, the Tribulation, and then the Battle of Armageddon after the Tribulation, and the return of Jesus Christ as the King of kings and the Lord of lords, something is very wrong. Depart quietly.

If they believe in Purgatory, depart and **do not return.**

As has been said in **Mt 12:32**, And whosoever speaketh (or speaks) a word against the Son of man, it shall be forgiven him: but whosoever speaketh (or speaks) against the Holy Ghost (or) (Holy Spirit), it shall not be forgiven him, neither in this world (or age), neither in the world (or age) to come.

Mt 12:33. Either make the tree good, and his fruit good; or else make the tree corrupt (or bad), and his (or its) fruit (will be) corrupt (or bad): for the tree is known (or recognized) by his fruit.

Mt 12:33. The tree represents a person in this verse.

Jesus was speaking to the religious leaders, but there would have been others standing by.

A tree (or a person) cannot be both good and bad together.

The Bible tells us: Mt 19:17-And he said unto him, Why callest thou me good? there is none good but one, that is, God.

The Pharisees produced no good fruit. They led people to eternal damnation. They led people away from the mercy of Christ, as do many today.

Followers of Jesus produce good fruit. They should lead people to repentance through the Word of God.

This verse relates back to Mt 7:16-20-Ye shall know them by their fruits. Do men gather grapes of thorns, or figs of thistles? Even so every good tree bringeth forth good fruit; but a corrupt tree bringeth forth evil fruit. A good tree cannot bring forth evil fruit, neither can a corrupt tree bring forth good fruit. Every tree that bringeth not forth good fruit is hewn down, and cast into the fire. Wherefore by their fruits ye shall know them.

As verse 33 said: For the tree is known by his fruit.

What a person thinks, what comes out of a person's mouth, and what a person does are all indicators of what is in a person's heart. They are all indicators of the person's fruit, and the fruit of most is corrupt or bad.

Let us review the previous verses on the subject of blasphemy against the Holy Spirit-ref Mt 12:22 to 32.

Mt 12:22. 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.

Mt 12:23. And all the people were amazed, and said, Is not this the son of David?

Mt 12:24. But when the Pharisees heard it, they said, **This fellow doth not cast out devils, but by Beelzebub the prince of the devils.**

Mt 12:25. 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:

Mt 12:26. And if Satan cast out Satan, he is divided against himself; how shall then his kingdom stand?

Mt 12:27. And **if I by Beelzebub** cast out devils, by whom do your children cast them out? therefore they shall be your judges.

Mt 12:28. But if I cast out devils by the Spirit of God, then the kingdom of God is come unto you.

Mt 12:29. 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.

Mt 12:30. He that is not with me is against me; and he that gathereth not with me scattereth abroad.

Mt 12:31. 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.**

Mt 12:34. O generation (or brood) of vipers, how can ye (or you), being evil (or who are evil), speak good things (or say anything good)? for out of the abundance (or overflow) of the heart the mouth speaketh (or speaks).

Mt 12:32. 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.**

Now returning to the commentary.

As has been said in **Mt 12:33**, Either make the tree good, and his fruit good; or else make the tree corrupt (or bad), and his (or its) fruit (will be) corrupt (or bad): for the tree is known (or recognized) by his fruit.

Mt 12:34. Jesus now calls the generation of His time, a **generation of vipers.**

The word "vipers" means:

venomous snakes,
also a malignant or spiteful person,
also a false or treacherous person.

Jesus knows and understands a person's heart.

He understands the things that be of men.

Next Jesus asks the question: **How can ye, being evil, speak or say good things?**

First, He called the people to whom he was speaking—vipers. Next, He calls them evil.

Then, through the question He asked, He indicates that people such as these cannot speak things that are good.

These people seemed to be both very negative and very accusing. In addition, they were dishonest. To people such as these, the Bible is a closed book. They cannot understand it.

Just an observation. How can a dishonest person admit they are dishonest? They not only lie to others, they lie to themselves. They are "unable" to see and understand things correctly. Many people are this way.

The verse concludes with a statement. Jesus indicates: For out of the abundance or overflow of the heart a person's mouth speaks.

Some people are like a balloon that is about to burst, because it has too much air. The Pharisees had an evil heart. They were enraged at Jesus, as Satan was filling their hearts with lies. Because they had an evil heart, they believed the lies the devil put in their thoughts, rather than the Old Testament verses that spoke of Christ.

The hatred they had inside of them was so great that they had committed the unforgivable sin.

The world is full of people like this today. Yet Jesus calls those that follow Him to love their enemies. Do good to them that hate you.

Philosophy and psychology preachers are, in this latter day generation, leading many to the gate to hell, not the gate to faith and holiness.

As has been said, there are about 25,000 religions in the world. Then there is Jesus Christ. It is through Him alone that a person can be saved.

Any person that believes any religion can save them do greatly err.

Can't you hear the screaming and crying of the billions in hell trying to tell you, "Don't come to this place of torment!"

Only through repentance and faith in Christ, and taking up your cross and following Jesus can a person be saved. The Bibles that collect dust confirm multitudes think they are saved, but they are spiritually dead even while they live.

There is no compromise or middle ground.

Mt 12:35. A good man out of the good treasure of **the heart** (stored up in him) bringeth forth good things: and an evil man out of the evil treasure (or things) bringeth forth evil things (stored up in him).

Mt 12:36. But I say unto you, That every idle (or careless) word that men shall speak (or have spoken), they shall give (or render) account thereof in the day of judgment.

As has been said in **Mt 12:34**, O generation (or brood) of vipers, how can ye (or you), being evil (or who are evil), speak good things (or say anything good)? for out of the abundance (or overflow) of the heart the mouth speaketh (or speaks).

Mt 12:35. Verse 35 is as a continuation of verse 34.

Next Jesus speaks of two types of men—a good man and an evil man.

Two types of treasure are mentioned—good treasure and evil treasure.

Two things are mentioned—good things and evil things.

Mt 7:16 tells us: Ye shall know them by their fruits.

Many, even most, are positive they are saved, yet there is no evidence they follow Jesus at all as Jesus is the Bible; and they do not read, obey, and follow God's Word.

Attending church does not save a person. Only repentance and faith in Christ does.

As has been said in **Mt 12:35**, A good man out of the good treasure of **the heart** (stored up in him) bringeth forth good things: and an evil man out of the evil treasure (or things) bringeth forth evil things (stored up in him).

Mt 12:36. Verse 35 had been speaking of a person's heart, and out of it comes forth good or evil.

Verse 36 speaks of the words that come out of a person's mouth.

It is a very **SEVERE WARNING** that is not taken seriously by most people.

When these words appear: "**But I say unto you,**" then be alert and note carefully what is about to be said by Jesus.

Jesus speaks of **idle** words.

Idle words can refer to something that seems insignificant and not important.

Idle words can mean words that fill in blank spots when a person can't think of what to say, but they want to say something.

Some people will say idle words that you want to hear to your face, but behind your back they say something different.

Idle can also mean:

lazy,
slothful, and
inactive.

Every word that Jesus spoke was of God. He spoke no idle or meaningless words.

At the Day of Judgment all idle words that you have spoken shall have to be accounted for by you. The very words that many speak will condemn them to hell and the lake of fire.

The very words that people speak behind other people's backs and behind closed doors shall all be revealed and made known.

The smallest sins shall not escape the Judgment.

A person's words reveals their heart, especially behind closed doors or in secret.

The Bible tells us in Col 4:6-Let your speech be always with grace, seasoned with salt, that ye may know how ye ought to answer every man.

First Tim 5:11-13-But the younger

Mt 12:37. For by thy (or your) words thou shalt be justified (or acquitted), and by thy (or your) words thou (or you) shalt be condemned.

widows...Having damnation, because they have cast off their first faith. And withal they learn to be idle, wandering about from house to house; and not only **idle**, but tattlers also and busybodies, **speaking things which they ought not.**

Every Christian should fear God. God is greatly to be feared in the assembly of the saints. Where does this leave you?

Each person should examine himself carefully by the word of God. Do the words that you speak come from the good treasure of your heart, or from the evil treasure?

As has been said in **Mt 12:36**, But I say unto you, That every idle (or careless) word that men shall speak (or have spoken), they shall give (or render) account thereof in the day of judgment.

Mt 12:37. As already said, those secret words said behind closed doors shall condemn most people, but, in a few cases, they will justify some.

The heart is where your **words** come from.

What comes forth from your heart and mouth?
What is your attitude?

Is it pride?
Is it a "know it all" attitude?
Is it self-centeredness?
Is it self-exaltation?
Is it a "me, myself, and I" attitude?

or is it

humbleness,
meekness,
brokenness,
love
and all the fruits of the Spirit?

Is Jesus on your lips when you are around other people, or do you have a forgetful attitude when it comes to Jesus when you are around unbelievers?

Are the words you speak from the heart those of love, faith, and truth, or of accusation, doubt, and falsehood?

Is your trust in Jesus firmly anchored in His Word and backed up by the fruits of the Spirit?

By the words that come out of your mouth, you will be justified. Likewise, by the words that come out of your mouth, you will be condemned.

Are you going to one of the very few Bible-believing and teaching churches; or do you stay at a certain church which is not so, because your friends are there?

What words have come out of your mouth that no one knows about that may condemn you?

By your words and by faith, you shall be justified.

Are the words that come out of your mouth full of excuses, regarding devouring God's Word and doing God's work?

Note Ja 3:3-5-Behold, we put bits in the horses mouths, that they may obey us, and we turn about their whole body. Behold also the ships, which though they be so great, and are driven of fierce winds, yet are they turned about with a very small helm or rudder, whithersoever the governor listeth (or pilot wants to go).

Even so the tongue is a little member, and boasteth great things. Behold how great a matter a little fire kindleth!

As has been said in **Mt 12:37**, For by thy (or your) words thou shalt be justified (or acquitted),

Mt 12:38. Then certain (or some) of the scribes (or teachers of the law) and of the Pharisees answered (or said unto him), saying, Master, we would see a (miraculous) sign from thee (or from you).

and by thy (or your) words thou (or you) shalt be condemned.

Mt 12:38. Only some of the scribes and Pharisees were involved. They wanted to see some sort of a sign from Jesus. They had called him "Master," which means teacher, or a special teacher.

Jesus had healed many.
He had raised the dead.
He had preached the coming of the kingdom.
Yet some scribes and Pharisees were not satisfied.

It would seem that no matter how many miracles Jesus might do, nothing would satisfy them.

At this point, it was some where about 22 months into His ministry. Jesus has already done so many miracles that many books could have already been written about what He did.

In verse 22 for example, Jesus had healed a man that was both blind and dumb; yet, they wanted more proof.

It is like today. Many have a Bible in their house, but it is ignored. If a person is not drawn by the Lord, he is without hope. He will die in his sins.

Many are called by Jesus, but they resist. They resist God's calling. They might have had eternal life, but they refuse to follow Jesus. Others begin to follow Jesus, but then they turn back.

Does anyone really believe they will spend eternity in the lake of fire? Do you believe you will spend eternity in the lake of fire?

Yet the Scriptures are clear that most do not go to heaven. They spend forever and ever in

Mt 12:39. But he answered and said unto them, An evil (or wicked) and adulterous generation seeketh (or craves) after (or for) a (miraculous) sign; and there shall no sign be given to it, but the sign of the prophet Jonas (or Jonah):

everlasting torment. Do you have ears to hear or eyes to see that you may be among them? There is still time to repent.

An estimated 27,397 people may die this day. Will that day come upon you unexpectedly this coming week? If you demand a sign, it is the Bible itself. Every single prophecy and statement in the Bible has been checked and rechecked by skeptics throughout history. The Bible is God's Word.

As has been said in **Mt 12:38**, Then certain (or some) of the scribes (or teachers of the law) and of the Pharisees answered (or said unto him), saying, Master, we would see a (miraculous) sign from thee (or from you).

Mt 12:39. Jesus told the scribes and Pharisees that those that sought for a sign were evil or wicked.

They were an adulterous generation. They were not faithful.

They sought after their own ways to be saved.

They believed they would inherit eternal life because of their own good works.

They believed, through the works of the law, they would be saved.

They had no understanding of the teachings of Jesus.

They could not comprehend salvation through trusting in Jesus.

It is much the same today.

Are there any at all that believe (in their heart) there is a hell, and they will go there?

Adultery can signify following Jesus, but then

Mt 12:40. For as Jonas (or Jonah) was three days and three nights in the whale's belly; (or belly of the huge fish) so shall the Son of man be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth.

turning back to Satan and cheating when they are tempted.

Jesus refused to give them a sign. Only the sign of the prophet Jonah.

Jesus had healed all types of sickness.

He had raised the dead.

Yet it was not enough for the evil scribes and Pharisees, because of the hardness of their hearts.

They were unwilling to admit they were sinners and had a need to repent.

They did not comprehend what Jesus meant by the sign of Jonah.

In the next verse, Jesus explains what He meant by the sign of the prophet Jonah.

As has been said in **Mt 12:39**, But he answered and said unto them, An evil (or wicked) and adulterous generation seeketh (or craves) after (or for) a (miraculous) sign; and there shall no sign be given to it, but the sign of the prophet Jonas (or Jonah):

Mt 12:40. The only sign Jesus gave was that of Jonah.

Here the word "whale" is used.

Jonah was three days and three nights in the whale's belly. The book of Jonah calls it a great fish-Jonah 1:17.

Jesus then prophesied that He would be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth. He would be in the tomb for the same length of time as Jonah was in the whale's belly.

(Note, it is said that the Jews considered a part

Mt 12:41. The men of Nineveh shall rise (or stand up) in (or at the) judgment with this generation, and shall condemn it: because they **repented** at the **preaching of Jonas** (or Jonah); and, behold (now), a greater than Jonas (or Jonah) is here.

of a day as a full day).

Jesus knew from the beginning that the masses of people would reject Him.

The people would have had no understanding of what Jesus said at this time as his crucifixion and burial had not yet taken place.

One can consider there would have been much talking among those hearing Him as to what he meant by what he spoke.

Whales can be up to approximately 112 feet long. They can weigh up to about 418,000 pounds.

There has been one or more incidents recorded in which a man has survived in a whale's belly.

As has been said in **Mt 12:40**, For as Jonas (or Jonah) was three days and three nights in the whale's belly; (or belly of the huge fish) so shall the Son of man be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth.

Mt 12:41. Nineveh was a very wicked city in the days of Jonah. These were gentiles.

Israel (that is, the Jews-the seed of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob) were so wicked in the days of Jesus that Nineveh in the judgment will condemn it.

Nineveh was laden with sin in olden times. It was a very wicked city. God had determined to destroy it.

Jonah came to the city and told them God was going to destroy them. Because of Jonah's warning, they repented, hoping that God might spare them. He did.

Now Jesus comes forth. He is far greater than

Jonah. He is God, Who had come to this earth in human form. He preached repentance. The word "repent" is used app. 9 times in the four Gospels.

He did miracles that no man had ever done to prove He was God.

But did Israel repent? No. Rather, Jesus was hung on a cross and marred worse than any man.

As said: Nineveh repented at the preaching of Jonah, but **Israel would not repent** at the preaching of Jesus.

Jesus did the greatest miracles ever seen by mankind. He forgave people's sins, and showed compassion and love such as had never been witnessed, but Israel insisted that God's only begotten Son be crucified.

As already shown, the Gentiles from the past were much more open than the Jews were at the time of Jesus.

Within 40 years after Jesus was crucified, Israel was destroyed. Many of the ruins from that destruction can still be seen in Israel.

It was only since **May 14, 1948**, that Israel has been a nation. For nearly 2000 years, there was no Israeli nation. Israel's rebirth began what the Bible calls the latter days, latter times, latter years.

Most of Israel today does not believe in or follow Jesus.

Of the approximate 6 million Jews in Israel, it is estimated that only 15,000 attend the estimated 150 messianic congregations, which averages 100 people in each. Of that 15,000, it is hard to estimate how many of these are truly saved and are doers of God's Word and not hearers only.

Only those that follow Jesus (which is God's Word) will inherit eternal life. Only a very few will be "caught up" or be raptured when it comes. Even among those that believe they are saved, only a small percentage really are. Are you a "doer" of God's word? Is God's word the center of your life?

Some do attend traditional Jewish synagogues which do not believe in Jesus.

Some people around the world have a Bible in their house. So they are certainly without excuse. Yet, is the USA repenting? No.

Is the world repenting? No.

Is the whole world going to pay the price for rejecting Christ? Yes.

That will happen when Jesus returns at the time of Armageddon.

As has been said in **Mt 12:41**, The men of Nineveh shall rise (or stand up) in (or at the) judgment with this generation, and shall condemn it: because they **repented** at the **preaching of Jonas** (or Jonah); and, behold (now), a greater than Jonas (or Jonah) is here.

Mt 12:42. Verse 41 speaks of repentance.

This verse speaks of hearing wisdom.

Jesus gives another example of how evil His generation was.

Jesus, in the previous verses, is addressing certain of the scribes and Pharisees for asking for a sign.

The only sign that would be given would be the death of Jesus, and that He would be three days and nights in the heart of the earth.

Mt 12:42. The queen of the south shall rise up in (or at) the (or this) judgment with this generation, and shall condemn it: for she came from the uttermost parts (or ends) of the earth to **hear** (or listen to) the **wisdom** of Solomon; and, behold, a greater than Solomon is here.

It seemed the miracles He did were not enough.

Nothing was enough, because their hearts were hard toward Jesus, Who is "the Word of God."

Is it any different today? If a person would search, there is extraordinary evidence and records that validate many, many accounts of events, as well as the locations of many places in the Bible.

Can much of the Bible be proven to be true? The answer is yes. Can any part of God's Word be proven to be wrong? **None whatsoever.**

So why isn't everyone a born again Christian?

It is because their hearts are hard, and they do not wish to repent.

They just don't seem to care.

Some just relate that they will take their chances, if such a thing as the Judgment ever does happen.

Some do not wish to leave their false religion or church.

Their love for this world exceeds their desire for eternal life.

So they deceive themselves and will not repent and believe the Bible.

They **cannot** believe, **if God** does not open their minds and hearts.

Many love this present world and do not have any desire to forsake anything in order to be saved.

It may be said, several subjects are covered in

this verse.

These include the queen of the south, what she shall do, and did, the wickedness of that generation, where she came from, and why, Solomon and his wisdom, and the greatness of Jesus.

The queen of the south is also mentioned in Lk 11:31. This was the queen of Sheba-ref 1 Ki 10:1-10.

She (the queen of the south) shall condemn the wicked generation of the times of Jesus, for she came from a long distance to hear Solomon's wisdom, and Jesus was far greater than Solomon.

The generation in the days of Jesus was so bad, that nothing would make them to repent. From the religious leaders to the least of the people, they wanted to remain in their sin. As history records, within a generation (40 years), the nation of Israel ceased to exist, as the Romans came and destroyed all. Reportedly, Masada was the last stronghold that managed to survive for an additional 3 years. Then they were destroyed.

The few that were left alive were scattered all over the world.

At this time, the world is becoming more and more like Sodom and Gomorrah, and like the world was in the days of Noah. Soon the Tribulation will be upon the world. Two great wars will occur. At the end of Armageddon, few will be left alive, when Jesus returns.

The world will not repent until then.

The world will continue to become more and more sinful.

Solomon had much understanding of worldly things. Many sought to hear him.

Jesus understood all things. He raised even the dead. He taught the most important thing there is: how to have a relationship with God and receive eternal life.

Yet He was ignored by many, and ridiculed by the religious establishment, and then crucified.

Note: The Bible teaching of this last generation has become very watered-down. According to God's Word, it is wretched, miserable, poor, blind, and naked. Few devour God's Word any more.

For the time **has come and now is**, when "so-called" Christians will no longer put up with sound doctrine. Rather, they willingly choose to gather around themselves many teachers that say what their itching, sinful, unrepentant ears want to hear. And the people love to have it this way. But when the Rapture soon comes, then they will be terrified and afraid as many will be left behind.

What excuse does this generation have? All this vast knowledge from God is in many, many houses. So that they are without excuse.

And that vast knowledge contained in the Bible sits and sits and sits in some drawer collecting dust year, after year, after year. And then the person, with their dying breath, thinks that they will go to heaven to be with the Word forever and ever.

Indeed, if they do not like being in God's Word now, how much more would they not like being in heaven with God's Word.

LIFE IS "THE TEST" THAT WILL DETERMINE WHERE EACH PERSON WILL SPEND ETERNITY.

Mt 12:43. When the **unclean (or evil) spirit** is gone out of a man, he walketh (or goes) through dry (or arid) (or waterless) places, seeking rest, and findeth none (or does not find it).

As has been said in **Mt 12:42**, The queen of the south shall rise up in (or at) the (or this) judgment with this generation, and shall condemn it: for she came from the uttermost parts (or ends) of the earth to **hear** (or listen to) the **wisdom** of Solomon; and, behold, a greater than Solomon is here.

Mt 12:43. (ref Lk 11:24-26). Jesus now seems to change the subject to unclean spirits, and what they do.

The term unclean spirit is used in the KJV 11 times

Unclean spirits—10 times.

Demon—0 times.

Demons—0 times.

Devil—61 times.

Devils—54 times.

These words are used interchangeably depending on the translation.

First, let it be understood that a demon or unclean spirit cannot inhabit a person that has the Holy Spirit.

During the Millennium, the unclean spirits shall pass out of the land-Zec 13:2.

Unclean spirits are also called devils, etc.

They know Jesus.

They have to obey Jesus.

They are terrified of Christ.

Jesus has the power to destroy them.

A person that would accuse Jesus of having an unclean spirit would commit the unforgivable sin.

To accuse a person that has the Spirit of God in them of having a demon, etc., is a very dangerous thing to do.

The unclean spirits or demons have names.

They can enter or possess and dwell in a person.

Great numbers of unclean spirits can occupy a person.

Some unclean spirits are more wicked than others.

When an unclean spirit is not in a person he may walk through dry places.

He seeks rest in a person.

He can talk and think.

To him, a person's body is a house.

They can tear a person.

They can torment a person.

They can make a person very powerful physically.

They can cause a person to hurt himself.

They can cause a person to become uncontrollable.

They can enter animals.

They can cause an animal that they occupy to become uncontrollable.

An animal that has an unclean spirit may react violently.

An unclean spirit that does not occupy a person walks through dry places, but cannot find rest.

They seek a place to rest.

An unclean spirit that is cast out of a person can return with more unclean spirits and reoccupy a person, unless that person has received the Holy Spirit.

Some believe unclean spirits are the disembodied spirits of a previous creation.

A person's body without the evil spirit is called empty, swept, and garnished.

Scriptures to consider regarding demons.

Lk 4:33-35; Lk 8:26-38; Lk 9:38-43;

Mt 8:30; 17:15-21;

Mk 5:1; 9:17-29;

Jn 11:24-26 ;

Acts 16:16; 19:12-17.

As has been said in **Mt 12:43**, When the **unclean (or evil) spirit** is gone out of a man, he walketh (or goes) through dry (or arid) (or waterless) places, seeking rest, and findeth none (or does not find it).

Mt 12:44. When an unclean spirit or demon is cast out of a person, or goes out of a man and finds no rest, he says to himself—I will return to where I was.

Then when he returns to the person he occupied, which to him is a house and a place of rest, he finds it empty, all cleaned up, and all put in order.

In other words, he finds the person that had been occupied very appealing. It is like a completely cleaned and refurbished house. It is a place he desires to inhabit again.

Mt 12:45. This reveals that these verses are speaking **both** of a person being possessed, as well as Israel at the time of Jesus.

This verse reveals to us that evil spirits are not all the same. Some are more wicked than others.

Then the evil spirit gathers other evil spirits that are much more evil than he is. Then this group of evil spirits enter into the man. The end result is that the man that is possessed with these evil spirits is much worse off, than he was in the beginning.

Mt 12:44. Then he (or it) saith, I will return into my house from whence I came out (or left); and when he is come (or arrives), he findeth it empty (or unoccupied), swept (clean), and garnished (or put in order).

Mt 12:45. Then goeth he, and taketh (or takes) with himself seven other spirits more wicked than himself, and they enter in and dwell (or live) there: and the last state (or final condition) of **that man** is worse than (at) the first. Even so shall it be (or that is how it will be) also unto **this wicked generation**.

They might be compared to people.

Some people are more evil than others. Among people there are none righteous, no not one.

Ro 3:10-12-As it is written, There is none righteous, no, not one: There is none that understandeth, there is none that seeketh after God. They are all gone out of the way, they are together become unprofitable; there is none that doeth good, no, not one. Ro 3:18, 23-There is no fear of God before their eyes. For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God;

Then Jesus compares the man with Israel, as He said: Even so shall it be also unto this wicked generation.

Israel would soon be worse off than it was at that present time.

Before Israel's destruction, Israel had said, "We have no king, but Caesar-ref Jn 19:15.

Within a generation after they crucified Jesus, the Romans did come and destroyed their nation.

For almost 2000 years, the Jews would remain scattered throughout the world.

However, on May 14, 1948, Israel became a nation again. This signified that we had entered the latter days.

In these latter days, there is a growing gay population in Israel. In Tel Aviv, during a certain date, there is a gay flag on nearly every store in the downtown area.

They have widely opened the door of sin.

In the not too distant future, Israel will be

attacked by Russia and others-ref Ezek chapters 38,39, and many other verses.

Israel will be brought to its knees. Yet God will only intervene after Israel repents and cries out to God in hopelessness.

In these latter days, Israel has denied the very God that brought them forth to be a nation again. Blindness, in part, has happened to Israel at this time.

And soon the fulfillment of Dan 9:27 will take place. The Antichrist will come forth after the Rapture of the few that follow Jesus takes place.

Dan 9:27-And he (the Antichrist) shall confirm the covenant with many for one week (or 7 years): and in the midst of the week (or 3 1/2 years from the end), he shall cause the sacrifice and the oblation to cease, and for the overspreading of abominations he shall make it desolate, even until the consummation, and that determined shall be poured upon the desolate.

There may be a slight time gap or change of location between Mt 12:45, and 46.

The demonic activity during the Tribulation in Israel, as well as the rest of the world, is expected to be far beyond anything the world has ever seen.

In the midst of the Tribulation, the Antichrist shall proclaim he is god, after receiving a wound in the head and comes back to life-ref Rev 13:3.

As has been said in **Mt 12:45**, Then goeth he, and taketh (or takes) with himself seven other spirits more wicked than himself, and they enter in and dwell (or live) there: and the last state (or final condition) of **that man** is worse than (at) the first. Even so shall it be (or that is how it will be) also unto **this wicked generation**.

Mt 12:46. While he (Jesus) yet talked (or was still speaking) to the people (or crowd) (or multitudes), behold, his **mother** and his brethren stood without (or outside), desiring (or wanting or seeking) to speak with him.

Mt 12:46. Take note regarding these three. (One) is the mother of Jesus and (two) his family (brothers and sisters), and (three) Joseph, Mary's husband

While Jesus continued talking to the people, his **mother** and **family** came and stood without or outside (the outside is not clarified).

This was **approximately 23 months** into the ministry of Jesus.

It is also noted that after Jesus had turned the water into wine back in Cana, that He, and His **mother**, and **brothers**, and disciples went to Capernaum together.

Joseph is not mentioned as being with them in Mt 12:46.

However, it appears Joseph may have still been alive as he is mentioned in Jn 6:42, which was **approximately 31 months into the ministry of Jesus**. The wording of Jn 6:42 **does not** seem to indicate that Joseph had passed on.

John 6:42-And they said, Is not this Jesus, the son of Joseph, whose **father** and mother **we know**? how is it then that he saith, I came down from heaven?

It **DOES NOT say** whose father **we knew** (past tense) and mother we know (current tense). It puts them together as both alive.

It appears Jesus had entered some house or building and was teaching there, and it may have been filled with people.

At this time, the brothers and sisters of Jesus did not believe in Him-ref Jn 7:5.

Apparently, neither Joseph or Mary had shared with them about the birth of Jesus, yet Isa 7:14 had said: THEREFORE THE LORD

HIMSELF SHALL GIVE YOU A SIGN; BEHOLD A VIRGIN SHALL CONCEIVE, AND BEAR A SON, AND SHALL CALL HIS NAME IMMANUEL.

It is possible Joseph may have passed away after Jn 6:42 (approximately 23 months into the ministry of Jesus), but before the crucifixion.

One hundred and twenty were in the upper room after the resurrection, and Mary was there with them-Acts 1:14. Jesus never called Mary his mother, but rather He called her woman.

As has been said in **Mt 12:46**, While he (Jesus) yet talked (or was still speaking) to the people (or crowd) (or multitudes), behold, his **mother** and his brethren stood without (or outside), desiring (or wanting or seeking) to speak with him.

Mt 12:47. Then one said unto him, Behold, thy mother and thy brethren (or brothers) stand without (or are standing outside), desiring (or seeking) to speak with thee.

Mt 12:47. Someone, that is not identified, told Jesus that his mother and brethren were outside.

They wanted to speak with Him.

The names of the brothers of Jesus appear to have been James, Simon, Joses, and Judas. He also had sisters, however how many there were and their names are not known.

Whether or not all his family were there, is also not revealed.

Joseph (the husband of Mary) is not mentioned.

It is not known when or how Joseph died.

The adversaries of Jesus seemingly would have observed that even the brothers and sisters of Jesus did not believe in Him. This changed later on.

Mt 12:48. But he answered and said unto him that told him, Who is my mother? and who are my brethren (or brothers)?

Mt 12:49. And he stretched forth his hand (pointing) toward his disciples, and said, Behold (Here are) my mother and my brethren (or brothers)!

As has been said in **Mt 12:47**, Then one said unto him, Behold, thy mother and thy brethren (or brothers) stand without (or are standing outside), desiring (or seeking) to speak with thee.

Mt 12:48. Jesus replied to those that told Him about His mother and brethren with a question.

He asked them: Who is my mother?

Who are my brethren? As has been said, at this time, the other offspring of Mary did not believe in Jesus. This would change at a later date.

As it has been said in **Mt 12:48**, But he answered and said unto him that told him, Who is my mother? and who are my brethren (or brothers)?

Mt 12:49. The brethren of Jesus are those that follow Jesus. They are His disciples. Originally, there was the twelve, but there were 120 that followed Him, of which Matthias was taken to replace Judas, the traitor.

Who is a disciple of Jesus according to God's Word?

Who are the brethren of Jesus?

It is those that have **repented**, and are truly **saved by faith, and obey Him**.

It is those that dwell in God's Word. Those that claim they follow Jesus, but do not dwell in His Word, when they can do so, are false disciples.

To ignore God's Word is to ignore Jesus.

To let a Bible collect dust is the same as doing it to Jesus.

Jesus and the Word are one and the same.

Mt 12:50. For whosoever shall do (or does) the will of my Father which is in heaven, the same (or he) is my brother, and sister, and mother.

Jesus is the Word of God.

It is amazing just how biblically illiterate people can be, and yet they actually believe they will go to heaven.

To not obey the Bible is to not follow and obey Jesus.

As has been said in **Mt 12:49**, And he stretched forth his hand (pointing) toward his disciples, and said, Behold (Here are) my mother and my brethren (or brothers)!

Mt 12:50. This verse reveals there is a family and family members. That family is headed by the Father which is in heaven.

It is not an earthly family, but rather a family that are all united as one, because they do the will of God.

Verse 50 clearly defines who is a part of that family; that is, it defines who are saved.

It clearly reveals that those that **follow** Jesus, those that **desire** to be in His Word, those that **obey** Christ, those that **do** the Father's will: are the brother, sister, and mother of Jesus. **Few fit this description.**

Many think they will be in heaven, but most are void of biblical understanding.

Regretfully true, but not believed. An estimated 99% or more of the people that believe heaven will be their home, should find (after it is too late) that their home will be the lake of fire, just as the rich man found out-ref Lk 16:28.

The average person goes about daily attending to the things of this world, confident that when they die, if there is another life, they will be ok.

Some go to church, some do not. Many have little knowledge that most churches are not of Jesus at all. Many, if they do go to church, follow what their parents did. They go to the denomination their parents went to.

The Word of God is not their life. They have no idea, at all, of what it means to be conformed to the image of Christ.

Most have little interest regarding watching the preaching on the TV or listening to it on the radio.

And if they watch the TV preachers, they have no understanding that many are preaching contrary to God's Word, even though they may use Scripture now and then. The example of many ministers conforming to God's Word is not there.

The foundation that people miss is this. They do not devour the words of the Bible and obey them. If they have a Bible, it collects dust much of the time.

In some cases a person may glance at a Bible or some handheld device. There is no concept by most that God's words are to be more necessary to them than the food they put into their mouth.

Who is the brother, sister, and mother of Jesus?

It is the person that forsakes all for Christ according to His Word, and picks up their cross and follows and obeys the Bible. It is the person that dies daily to themselves and conforms to the image of Jesus.

Repent.

Afterward, be baptized by full immersion in the

name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost.

Begin to devour God's Word, even though at first it will be hard to understand some things, but that changes for the faithful.

Obey God's Word.

Do not attend a church that does sprinkling baptism.

Do not attend a church whose preacher does not himself conform to God's Word.

A person that does not obey God's Word is not a part of God's family.

This is the will of God, Who is in heaven, as Mt 12:50 says: For whosoever shall do the will of my Father which is in heaven, the same is **my** brother, and sister, and mother.

A person is to die to themselves, but in doing so they become more alive in Jesus. Paul said in 1 Cor 15:31-**I DIE DAILY**.

Jesus paid a horrible price to make you a part of His family for ever and ever. Do not make light of it.

As has been said in **Mt 12:50**, For whosoever shall do (or does) the will of my Father which is in heaven, the same (or he) is my brother, and sister, and mother.

[Click here for Mt. Chapter 13](#)

If you have now read all the commentary for the previous chapter, consider returning to the beginning of the chapter and read just the verses again. Each verse should now have much more meaning to you.

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