

The Pastor's Bible Study

An interactive study of the Gospel of Matthew¹

Week 13 ~ Exploring Chapter 11 & 12

Personal Study Time:

(Use the following suggestions in your personal Bible study time this week to prepare for our class discussion next Saturday.)

- Start a new section in your Matthew notebook and label it chapter 11 & 12
- Read chapters 11 & 12 at least two times and then answer the following questions in your notebook.
 - Why, according to the marginal reference, was John in prison (11:2)?
 - Why was he discouraged about Jesus in 11:2, 3?
 - Use your marginal reference for 11:2 to compare John's original expectations of Jesus with His actual ministry. How did Jesus' work differ from what John had suggested?
 - What is the significance of Jesus' reply in 11:4-6 (use the marginal reference to help answer this question)?
 - What do you think Jesus meant when He claimed that John was both the greatest and the least in 11:11?
 - What do you think Jesus was saying about Himself when He referred to John as Elijah in 11:14? Your marginal reference to the Old Testament will help you here.
- Re-read Matthew 11:20-30 and then answer the following questions.
 - What is the significance of Jesus comparison of the Jewish cities of Korazin and Bethsaida to Tyre, Sidon, and Sodom? Use a Bible Dictionary, a concordance, and/or marginal reference to help you understand the symbolism of each of the Old Testament cities mentioned.
 - Now, summarize your findings in a short paragraph.
- Re-read Matthew 12:1-29 and then answer the following questions.
 - Outline the confrontation of Jesus with the Pharisees regarding the Sabbath in these verses.
 - In a short paragraph summarize the principles that undergird Jesus' approach to the events described.
 - Compare 12:14 and 12:2, what do you find of special interest in the mentality of the Pharisees?
 - Using the aids in your Bible, find the parallel treatment of the subject in the Gospel of Mark. What does Mark add to your understanding of these principles?

(Please turn to the back of this page for the continuation of our study of chapters 11 and 12)

¹ Quoted and/or adapted from George R. Knight, *Matthew: The Gospel of the Kingdom*, The Abundant Life Bible Amplifier (Boise, Idaho: Pacific Press Pub. Association, 1994).

- Re-read Matthew 12:30-50 and then answer the following questions.
 - One could get the impression from 12:38 that the scribes and Pharisees had not seen Jesus perform any miracles. Is that true? Where were these Jewish leaders in chapter 8 and 9 and what was their response?
 - What is the significance of their request in 12:38 in the flow of Matthew's Gospel?
 - What is the significance of Jesus' answer (vss. 39, 40) in the Gospel's movement to its climax in chapters 27 and 28?

Application Questions:

- What is my relationship to God's Sabbath?
 - Is it a burden or a blessed rest in my life?
 - What positive things could I do to make the Sabbath a richer experience in my Christian walk?
- Do I ever get so angry with those who differ from me theologically that feelings of hate or unhealthy aggressive behavior begin to surface?
 - What do those feelings tell me about my walk with Jesus?
 - In what ways can God help me with this problem?