



PITWM VERSE BY VERSE

MATTHEW 12:22-32, 38-40

LESSON: JESUS POINTS TO JONAH—November 24, 2024

INTRODUCTION:

JESUS SHOWS PEOPLE THE FATHER AND HE OFFERS AN EASY YOKE 11:23-30

11:23 God had done marvelous miracles in the town of Capernaum, but says that if He had done those things in Sodom, it would still be standing today. **11:24** And when He judges everyone, Sodom would be better off at the Judgment Day than Capernaum **11:25** At that time, Jesus spoke to His Father. *'I praise you Father', He said. 'You are the Lord of heaven and earth. Thank you that you have hidden these things from wise people. And you have hidden these things from people who know a lot. But you have shown them to people who know very little.* **11:26** *Yes, Father. That was what you wanted.* **11:27** *'My Father has given everything to me. The Father is the only person who knows the Son. And only the Son knows the Father, together with the people that the Son chooses to tell about him.* **11:28** *Come to me, if you are tired. And everyone who is carrying a heavy load should come to me. I will give you rest.* **11:29** *Take my yoke and put it on your shoulders. Then you will learn what I teach you. My attitude is gentle and humble, so you will find rest.* **11:30** *The yoke that I give you is easy. And the load that I give you is light.'*

JESUS IS GOD'S SERVANT 12:15-21

12:15 Jesus heard about the Pharisees' wicked plans, so He went away from that place. Many people followed Him. And He healed all of them who were ill. **12:16** But He warned them not to tell other people about Him. **12:17** God had spoken by means of His servant Isaiah long ago. Jesus made His words come true. **12:18** *'Here is my servant whom I have chosen. I love him and I am very pleased with him. I will give my Holy Spirit to him. He will announce my judgment to the people in all the nations.* **12:19** *He will not quarrel and he will not shout. He will not talk loudly in the streets.* **12:20** *He will not break a weak grass stem. He will not put out a flame that is burning low. He will continue his efforts until he has made everything fair and right.* **12:21** *Then people in all the nations will trust him for their future.*

LESSON:

I. MATTHEW 12:22-23

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.** ¹The crowd began to wonder if Jesus was the Messiah. The man brought to Jesus was blind, dumb, and with a devil. But the demon had to leave by the touch and presence of Jesus. No demon can stand against Jesus. Jesus brought forth the healing that the man needed. Sight and Speech came forth.

12:23 **And all the people were amazed, and said, Is not this the son of David?—** The people had expected the *'Son of David'* to come forth as a ruler who would fight for them, but Jesus did not

¹ <https://www.easyenglish.bible/bible-commentary/matthew-lbw.htm>
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come in the way they expected.

II. MATTHEW 12:24-32

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. ²The Pharisees had already decided that Jesus was not the Christ. In their opinion, Jesus was an enemy. But they could not deny that Jesus had done a powerful deed. They answered the crowd that **‘this man’** was not the Christ. With dislike, they called Jesus **‘this man’**. They said that **‘this man’** was forcing out demons by the power of Beelzebub. They said in effect that Jesus was evil. And by the use of evil powers, Jesus had forced out the demon. They had no proof!

"Beelzebub" was their name for the prince of demons. The original name Baal-Zebub meant lord (ruler) of the flies. The name Beelzebub or Beelzebub became another name for Satan. Therefore, these Pharisees said in effect that Jesus worked for Satan.

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:— Jesus knew even what these Pharisees were thinking before they even spoke it. No thought or imagination could get by Jesus. He's Omniscient! Now He gives them a spiritual lesson in a natural sense. A kingdom fighting against itself will not be able to stand; not be able to function well, let alone bring any good. It would be brought to desolation; ruin or devastation. A war inside a nation destroys that nation. Divisions inside a family will ruin that family. So, every city or house divided against itself shall not stand

12:26 And if Satan cast out Satan, he is divided against himself; how shall then his kingdom stand?— Satan rules the evil spirits. So Satan would be very foolish if he helped Jesus. Satan would not be fighting against himself. Then Satan would be destroying his own kingdom.

12:27 And if I by Beelzebub cast out devils, by whom do your children cast them out? therefore they shall be your judges. ³Some of the Pharisees' disciples also tried to force evil spirits out of people. So Jesus asked who gave those Jewish people their power. They used all kinds of magic and special words. Jesus needed only to give a command. But the Pharisees did not accuse their own disciples. They knew it had to be a higher power within them to do this, therefore the power within Jesus had to be from God Himself!

12:28 But if I cast out devils by the Spirit of God, then the kingdom of God is come unto you. These Pharisees had to see what Jesus was saying, but didn't want to admit it. It was possible that Jesus was able to cast out demons because of the power of the Holy Spirit in Him, so that God's kingdom or God's rule in heaven can be seen now in this world. So, if Jesus is casting out devils by the Spirit of God, then the kingdom of God is come unto them.

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. ⁴Satan is like a strong man, but Jesus is more powerful than Satan. Satan had made people into his slaves, and they were Satan's property, but Jesus had gone into Satan's kingdom, and removed people from it (like the blind and dumb man in this story).

² <https://www.easyenglish.bible/bible-commentary/matthew4-13-im-lbw.htm>

³ <https://www.easyenglish.bible/bible-commentary/matthew-lbw.htm>

⁴ <https://www.easyenglish.bible/bible-commentary/matthew-lbw.htm>

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You see the strong man guard his property, and to take his property from him, you must defeat him, and Satan could not stop Jesus, not by Satan's power, but by the God's power!

12:30 He that is not with me is against me; and he that gathereth not with me scattereth abroad. There is a choice to be made. ⁵Either they accept Jesus or they refuse Him. Either they are with Him or they are against Him. There are only two sides. If people are not on Jesus' side, they are His enemies; against Him. A person on Jesus' side gathers people to Him. Enemies turn people away from Jesus, so we want to gather others to Jesus and not scatter the harvest to the enemy.

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. Jesus is telling the Pharisees of the why behind something. That something is sin and blasphemy (speaking against the Holy Spirit). Sin is a problem that can be forgiven through repentance. You can repent! This verse speaks that all manner of sin and blasphemy shall be forgiven, **except** the blasphemy against the Holy Spirit, which shall not be forgiven. Jesus gave a serious warning to the Pharisees who will never ask for forgiveness.

The sin against the Holy Spirit is the attitude of a person who chooses on purpose not to believe on the Holy Spirit's work of conviction. That person has chosen strongly to oppose God's work by His Holy Spirit. It is such a strong decision that the person will not ever change his mind. Whoever rejects the prompting of the Holy Spirit removes himself from the only force that can lead him to repentance and restoration to God! This is a point of no return. The Pharisees were not aware that they had sinned, so they would not repent. People said and did many things against Jesus when He was on the cross, and He asked God to forgive all those things.

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. ⁶The Pharisees refused to understand what God wanted. For a long time, they had thought that their own ideas were right. They had even said that a good action was a wicked action. Isaiah had said, *'Things will be bad for the people who say that evil things are 'good'. And they say that good things are 'evil'* (Isaiah 5:20). ⁷These Pharisees saw the good deeds that Jesus did. But, they said that the power to do these deeds came from Satan. They called evil 'good' and good 'evil'. They could see the truth, but they decided to oppose it. This attitude puts such persons in a state in which they cannot repent. As they cannot repent, God cannot forgive them. And they cannot believe in the Lord Jesus for salvation. Jesus says this plainly that speaking against the Holy Ghost shall not be forgiven, neither in this world, neither in the world to come

NOT APART OF THE LESSON: VERSES 33-37

12:33 Either make the tree good, and his fruit good; or else make the tree corrupt, and his fruit corrupt: for the tree is known by his fruit. Jesus is using a practical everyday scenario that the people could understand, but He's really talking about people. This reminds me of Psalm 1:3-4 *"And he shall be like a tree planted by the rivers of water, that bringeth forth his fruit in his season; his leaf also shall not wither; and whatsoever he doeth shall prosper. The ungodly are not so: but are like the chaff which the wind driveth*

⁵ <https://www.easyenglish.bible/bible-commentary/matthew4-13-im-lbw.htm>

⁶ <https://www.easyenglish.bible/bible-commentary/matthew-lbw.htm>

⁷ <https://www.easyenglish.bible/bible-commentary/matthew4-13-im-lbw.htm>

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away." There are two kinds of people. Some people are like good trees that produce good fruit. And other people are like bad trees that produce bad fruit (*see Matthew 7:16-20*). You can tell what a tree is like when you see its fruit. If a tree is good, its fruit will be good. If a tree is bad, its fruit will be bad. "Whereby their fruit you shall know them" (Matthew 7:20). It's the same for people!

12:34 O generation of vipers, how can ye, being evil, speak good things? for out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaketh. ⁸Jesus tells these Pharisees that You are a nest of poisonous snakes! These verses emphasize what Jesus had said about the Pharisees—"O generation of vipers." "You are evil. You can never say anything that is good. Your words come from everything that is in your spirit." They had accused Jesus. And they had said that he helped Satan. Their words showed what kind of people they were. They were like a bad tree that produced bad fruit. Their words were as dangerous as the poison that comes from a snake. So, we see where their hearts were; nothing but evil came from the heart.

12:35 A good man out of the good treasure of the heart bringeth forth good things: and an evil man out of the evil treasure bringeth forth evil things. Jesus tells them that out of the good treasure of their heart, a good man will bring forth good things. And out of the evil treasure of your heart, an evil man will bring forth evil things.

12:36 But I say unto you, That every idle word that men shall speak, they shall give account thereof in the day of judgment. ⁹Often we do not think carefully about what we say. Those words are not good or helpful. Instead, they may hurt other people's feelings. Nobody can take back careless words. To say 'I did not mean it' does not free a person. He is still responsible and will give account to God in the Day of Judgment!

12:37 For by thy words thou shalt be justified, and by thy words thou shalt be condemned. God knows what each person has said or about to say or thought of. And God will decide whether a person is guilty, or whether a person is free from blame.

III. MATTHEW 12:38-40

12:38 Then certain of the scribes and of the Pharisees answered, saying, Master, we would see a sign from thee. The Pharisees are still trying to trap Jesus. And they called Him Master (Teacher) like they are on the up and up. They wanted Jesus to do something extraordinary; to prove who He really was, as if the many miracles done already wasn't enough. They wanted Jesus to jump through their loops/hoops. This would prove His authority. Satan had tempted Jesus to jump off the Temple roof (Matthew 4:5-6). Jesus had done miracles and He healed people. This was their evidence that God loved people. The Pharisees did not believe that these miracles showed Jesus' authority.

12:39 But he answered and said unto them, An evil and adulterous generation seeketh after a sign; and there shall no sign be given to it, but the sign of the prophet Jonas:— Sometimes we ask for a sign, and God will do it or He in this point will not because He knew these Scribes and Pharisees' hearts. Jesus called them an evil and adulterous (fruitless, withered, and corrupt) generation seeking a sign. He tells

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them no sign will be given. They had just seen the sign of the blind and dumb man being healed. But Jesus has them look at the sign of the prophet Jonah. As we look at Jonah who was in the belly of the fish for three days and three nights, he had a new chance at life. This would be their chance to repent. Jonah's one job was to go to Nineveh to tell the people to repent!

12:40 For as Jonas was three days and three nights in the whale's belly; so shall the Son of man be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth. This is a new chance at life that came after 3 days and 3 nights. Jesus said that He would be in His grave for three days and three nights, just as Jonah was. He compared this to the time that Jonah stayed in the belly of the fish. The Resurrection would be the final evidence.

SUMMARY:

22 The crowd began to wonder if Jesus was the Messiah. The man brought to Jesus was blind, dumb, and with a devil. He brought forth the healing that the man needed. Sight and Speech came forth. **23** And all the people were amazed, and said, *'Is not this the son of David?'* (**12:22-23**).

24 The Pharisees had already decided that Jesus was not the Christ. They said that **'this man'** was forcing out demons by the power of Beelzebub, the prince of the devils. **25** Jesus even knew what these Pharisees were thinking before they even spoke it. A kingdom fighting against itself will not be able to stand. **26** Satan rules the evil spirits. Satan would not be fighting against himself. Then Satan would be destroying his own kingdom. **27** Jesus says, *'And if I by Beelzebub cast out devils, then by whom do your children cast them out? Therefore, they shall be your judges.'* **28** *'But if Jesus is casting out devils by the Spirit of God, then the kingdom of God is come unto them.'* **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.'* **30** Either they accept Jesus or they refuse Him. Either they are with Him or they are against Him, and those that don't gather in the harvest with Him scatters it. **31** *"All manner of sin and blasphemy shall be forgiven unto men: but the blasphemy against the Holy Ghost shall not be forgiven unto men."* **32** *"And whosoever speaks a word against the Son of man, it shall be forgiven him: but whosoever speaks against the Holy Ghost, it shall not be forgiven him, neither in this world, neither in the world to come"* (**12:24-32**).

38 The Pharisees are still trying to trap Jesus. And they called Him Master (Teacher) like they are on the up and up. They wanted Jesus to do something extraordinary; to prove who He really was—*"give us a sign."* **39** Jesus called them an evil and adulterous (fruitless, withered, and corrupt) generation seeking a sign. He tells them no sign will be given. **40** Jesus said that He would be in His grave for three days and three nights just as Jonah was. He compared this to the time that Jonah stayed in the belly of the fish. This is a new chance at life that came after 3 days and 3 nights (**12:38-40**).