### Matthew

## Chapter 12

1Well, as Jesus was traveling through some grain fields on a Sabbath, his disciples got hungry and they started plucking some of the grain and eating it. 2But when the Pharisees saw this, they said:  
  
 ‘Look! Your disciples are doing what’s illegal on the Sabbath!’  
  
3And [Jesus] said to them:  
  
 ‘Haven’t you read what David did when he and his men got hungry… 4How they entered God’s House and ate the show bread on Jehovah’s table, which wasn’t legal for them to eat, since it was only for the Priests?  
  
 5‘Or haven’t you read in the Law that the Priests in the Temple can break the Sabbath rules [by offering sacrifices] and not be found guilty?  
  
 6‘So I’m telling you that something greater than the Temple is here now! 7And if you understood what the words mean, ‘I want mercy, not sacrifices,’ you probably wouldn’t be condemning these innocent ones.  
  
 8‘For the Son of Man is the Lord of the Sabbath!’  
  
9Then from there, Jesus entered their synagogue, 10where {Look!} he found a man who had a withered hand. So [those Pharisees] then asked him:  
  
 ‘Is it legal to heal on the Sabbath?’  
  
(They said this so they could find something that they could accuse him of doing wrong).  
  
11And he asked them:  
  
 ‘If any of you had a sheep that fell into a pit on the Sabbath; which one of you wouldn’t go there to lift it out?  
  
 12‘So, since a man is worth much more than a sheep… Yes, it is legal to do good things for him on the Sabbath!’  
  
13And at that, he said to the man:  
  
 ‘Now, stretch out your hand.’  
  
And when he stretched it out, it became healthy just like the other hand!  
  
14Well, thereafter, the Pharisees then went out and assembled a counsel to destroy [Jesus]. 15However, Jesus knew what they were planning, so he left that place.  
  
There were many [people who traveled] with him at that time, and he cured them all. 16But he sternly warned them not to expose him, 17so that the words spoken through the Prophet IsaiAh might be fulfilled:  
  
 18‘{Look} My servant, whom I have chosen…  
 My loved one who’s approved by My Soul!  
 In him, I’ll now put My Breath,  
 And he’ll tell the nations about My decisions.  
  
 19‘Yet, he won’t argue or shout,  
 Nor in the main streets, will they hear his voice.  
 20He won’t crush a bruised reed,  
 Nor will he extinguish a smoking flax wick  
 Until he brings triumph to justice  
 21And the nations put hope in his name.’  
 [Isaiah 42:1]  
  
22Well after that, they brought him a demon-possessed man who was blind and couldn’t speak, and he cured him so that he could both speak and see. 23This amazed the crowds and they all started asking:  
  
 ‘Isn’t this the Son of David?’  
  
24However, when the Pharisees heard them saying this, they said:  
  
 ‘He’s throwing out demons by [the power of]BeElZebub the ruler of the demons!’  
  
25Of course, [Jesus] knew what they were thinking, so he said this to them:  
  
 ‘A kingdom that’s divided will fall,  
 And a city or house that’s divided won’t stand.  
 26So if the Opposer casts out the Opposer,  
 He’s fighting himself and his kingdom won’t stand.  
  
 27‘Now, if I’m really using BeElZebub’s [power] to cast out demons, then whose [power] are your sons using when they cast them out?  
  
 ‘You see; it’s things like this that condemn you!  
  
 28‘For if I’m really casting out demons by means of God’s Breath, then God’s Kingdom has rolled over you! 29After all, no one can break into the house of a powerful person and steal his things unless they first tie him up… Only then can they loot his house.  
  
 30‘So now; those who aren’t with me are against me, and those who aren’t on my side will be scattered.  
  
 31‘And I’m telling you this: All sins and blasphemies can be forgiven… But not blasphemy against [God’s Holy] Breath. That won’t be forgiven!  
  
 32‘If someone speaks badly against the Son of Man, this is something that can be forgiven. But if someone blasphemes [God’s] Holy Breath, he won’t be forgiven… No, not in this age or in that to come.  
  
 33‘So, either declare the tree and its fruit to be good or declare it [all] to be rotten. For you’ll recognize the trees by the fruit that they bear.  
  
 34‘O you offspring of vipers! How can evil people like you speak of good things, since what you’re saying is coming from your hearts? 35A good man will bring what’s good from the good [that’s in his heart], while the evil just bring bad things from what’s stored there.  
  
 36‘So I’m telling you now that when the Judgment Day arrives, you’ll each answer for the things that you’ve said to mislead…  
  
 37‘You’ll either be found righteous, or you’ll be condemned by the things that you’re saying.’  
  
38Then some of the Scribes and Pharisees came up to him and said:  
  
 ‘Teacher, we want to see a sign from you!’  
  
39And [Jesus] replied:  
  
 ‘A wicked and adulterous people [is always] looking for signs. However, they won’t receive one other than the sign of Jonah the Prophet. 40For as Jonah was in the sea creature’s belly for three days and three nights; the Son of Man will be in the heart of the ground for three days and three nights.  
  
 41‘Then the men of Nineveh will stand in the Judgment along with this people and they’ll condemn it; for they repented at what Jonah preached…  
  
 ‘But look; something greater than Jonah is here!  
  
 42‘The Queen of the South will also arise in the judgment and she will condemn this people; for she came from the ends of the land to listen to Solomon’s wisdom…  
  
 ‘But look; something greater than Solomon is here!  
  
 43‘When an unclean spirit comes out of a man, it travels through [many] dry places searching for a [good] place to rest.  
  
 ‘But if it can’t find one, it says:  
  
 44‘I’ll just go back to the house that I left.’  
  
 ‘And then, upon his return, if he finds [the house] empty, furnished, and swept, 45he’ll move back in, bringing along seven more spirits that are even more wicked than himself. So then, after [he] gets inside [of the man], the others will dwell in him also, making things worse for him than they were before… Yet, that’s how this people will be.’  
  
46Well, while he was still talking to the crowds, {Look!} his mother and brothers showed up and they were standing outside waiting to speak to him. 47So someone said to [Jesus]:  
  
 ‘Look, your mother and brothers are standing outside and waiting to speak to you.’  
  
48But he said:  
  
 ‘Just who’s my mother, and who are my brothers?’  
  
49Then he held out his hand towards his disciples and said:  
  
 ‘Look… My mother and my brothers! 50For all those who are doing the will of my Father in the heavens are my brothers, sisters, and mother.’