

Matt 12:22-50; Luke 8:1-3, 11:14-54 - Daily Study Questions (cont)

<p>4. Based on Matt 12:33-37 what was the Jews' error about Jesus (v33)? What did this reveal about them (v34-35) and what would bring it to light (v36-37)? What does this teach us?</p>	
<p>5. Read Matt 12:38-42. What did the Jews ask for (v38)? How did Jesus assess this (v39) and what 2 examples showed why (v41-42)? Explain the "sign" He promised anyway (v40).</p>	
<p>6. Using Matt 12:43-45 what "spiritual" event does Jesus describe (v43-45) and to whom did this apply (v45)? How can we apply this today?</p>	
<p>7. In Matt 12:46-50 and Luke 11:27-28 what 2 responses (Matt 12:46-47, Lu 11:27) were made? What thinking did this reveal and how did Jesus correct it (Matt 12:48-50, Lu 11:28)?</p>	
<p>8. Look at Luke 11:33-36. What is the purpose of light (v33, 36) and what is the lamp "in us" (v34)? How does our light become darkness and how can we overcome this (v35-36)?</p>	
<p>9. From Luke 11:37-52 list the "woes" against the Pharisees (v42, 43, 44) and scribes (v46, 47-51, 52). Why did Jesus declare these (v37-38, 45) and what was the real problem (v39-41)? How do these relate to us?</p>	
<p>10. According to Luke 11:53-54 what was the outcome of Jesus' confrontation with the Jewish leaders (v53, 54)? How does this show the validity of Jesus' assessment of them?</p>	
<p>11. Thinking back over these questions why is "blasphemy against the Holy Spirit" the unpardonable sin? How does the settled mindset reveal itself in people's lives based on this study?</p>	

Scripture to Remember

"He who is not with me is against me, and he who does not gather with Me scatters."

Matthew 12:30 (NASV)

Celebration Fellowship

Help—Hope—Healing

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Life Group Questions—The Prayer of Brokenness (2 Cor 12:7-10)

(Using questions based on today's message, Life Groups meet in homes to build supportive relationships with others at Celebration Fellowship that enable us to grow in Christ.)

1. Discuss why "weakness" is such a difficult thing to admit. What are some areas in which we feel weak, but hate to admit it?
2. Read 2 Cor 12:7-10. What did Paul face and why (v7)? How did he first deal with it (v8)? Do you agree that praying for "deliverance" is a good place to start?
3. Why is it important to realize that brokenness is a process, not just a point? What does God have to "strip away" (see Paul's resume, 2 Cor 11:23-28) from us?
4. Identify some of the diverse trials that we face from these passages: 2 Thes 1:3-5; 2 Tim 4:5-8; Jas 1:2-4; Heb 12:1. What value does endurance have for us?
5. Of the 3 ways God dispenses His grace for endurance (His indwelling Spirit, the Word, fellow believers) which do you use most and which do you use least? Why?
6. Describe specifically how we can enlist our "thorn" (weakness) to facilitate the process of brokenness in our lives.
7. Talk about anything else meaningful from the message if you have time.



THE LIFE OF JESUS

Studies in the Gospels

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Growing in Spirit & Truth

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The 5 Purposes of the Purpose Driven Life

- **Worship**—You were planned for God’s pleasure
- **Fellowship**—You were formed for God’s family
- **Discipleship**—You were created to become like Christ
- **Ministry**—You were shaped for serving God
- **Evangelism**—You were made for a mission

The Unpardonable Sin

Matt 12:122-50; Luke 8:1-3, 11:14-54

When someone commits the “unpardonable sin” it spells doom for that particular future. In this week’s study Jesus actually identified the only truly “unpardonable sin”, the only sin that can keep a person from spending eternity in heaven with God. The context of Jesus’ declaration was the Pharisees’ reaction to His healing of a demon-possessed blind and dumb man. They showed their true colors when they attributed Jesus’ work to “Beelzebul”, ruler of darkness. Rather than admitting that only God could cast out demons, and thus that Jesus was God, they, in the words of Jesus, “blasphemed the Spirit” who had accomplished this work. Jesus also pointed to the fact that Satan would be dividing his own kingdom if he had done this, and further showed the fallacy of their argument as He asked by whom their sons had cast out demons; their argument meant that it was by Satan himself. Jesus was their

real problem; but even their slander against Him was not the unpardonable sin, but rather their slander against the Holy Spirit. When we reject the word of the Spirit to our hearts, that is the unpardonable sin because it is saying no to salvation. Jesus also said that this blasphemy was the fruit of an evil tree, and such words of slander would reveal their hearts on the day of judgment. By contrast there were those who accepted Jesus—His disciples and the women who supported Him—and their fruit came from a good tree. In the next section those who sought Jesus without honest conviction are displayed. Those who wanted a “sign” from Jesus were really asking from an evil heart. Jesus had already done enough to convince those willing to believe. So, Jesus said that the only sign they would receive would be the “sign of Jonah”; His resurrection. This would entail believing before the fact; thus, rather than proof, it would be evidence. Furthermore,



Jesus’ one solitary life changed the course of mankind for eternity.

those who have superficially believed will reveal their true values in everyday life. Even His family will be on the outside unless they truly believe. Finally, Jesus allowed the Jews to see the consequences of their unbelief. Those who had outwardly obeyed God, Pharisees and scribes, could expect “woe” since they had neglected love, justice, and loyalty to God while “majoring on minors”. This had led to the persecution of God’s people, so they would experience His judgment. With these words the Jewish leaders became hostile and began to find ways to trap Jesus by their arguments, revealing that they had committed the unpardonable sin by rejecting the Spirit.

Study Questions for Matt 12:22-50; Luke 8:1-3; 11:14-54

(for answers go to [http://www.celebrationnet.com/abf.html/study questions](http://www.celebrationnet.com/abf.html/study%20questions))

<p>1. Read Luke 8:1-3. What was Jesus’ ongoing ministry (v1)? Who went with Him (v1, 2-3) and what was the function of this “support” team (v1, 3)? What does this scenario teach us?</p>	
<p>2. From Matt 12:22-29 what did Jesus do (v22) and what was the reaction (v23, 24)? How did Jesus answer the objections (v25-26, 27, 28, 29)?</p>	
<p>3. Using Matt 12:30-32 what had the Pharisees’ response shown (v30, 31) and what would result from their actions (v32)? What is (v31, 32) and what is not (v32) the unpardonable sin? Explain.</p>	

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