

Matthew 12 – 27 October 2019

“Why Rely On Preaching, Isn’t Experience Better?”

Introduction

Matt 5-7 – The teachings of the Kingdom

Matt 8-9 – Jesus’ first healings and one on one compassion toward the people

Matt 10 – Jesus sends the 12 to conduct their own mission on His behalf (to declare the Kingdom is coming)

Matt 11 – Jesus adjusts their expectations of what the Kingdom is like and when it will come

Chapter 12 shows us 3 reasons to preach God’s Word

The preaching and teaching of God’s Word is different and so special.

No other religion relies on words rather than experience.

#1 – We preach God’s Word b/c it’s designed to help us, not hurt us (Vs 1-21)

Read Vs 1-4

1. Sabbath Law wasn’t designed to *prevent* you from good things, it was designed to *provide* for you good things.
 - a. Provided rest
 - b. Provided time to reflect on God & creation
 - c. Wasn’t to prevent you from “having fun”
 - d. Wasn’t to prevent you from caring for yourself as needed.
2. There are two ways to look at God’s guidelines to us (as provision or as prevention)
 - a. God says, any sexual activity outside of marriage will ruin the real thing.
 - i. Prevention or protection of good things?
 - b. God says, thou shalt not lie.
 - i. Prevention from telling lies or protection of our relationships?

Read Vs 5-8

1. Not only did the service of the priests in the temple trump the rest of the sabbath, but Jesus Himself trumps the law of the sabbath!
2. Example
 - a. In military school, I had a “law” that I would call my wife certain nights of the week at 8pm.
 - b. But some of those night turned out to be a night that I started teaching a Bible study, so I didn’t get to call, b/c the work of the ministry trumped the phone call.
 - c. But then the day came the I got to go home (after months and months) and see my wife face to face.
 - i. I didn’t need to call my wife at 8pm anymore
 - ii. No b/c a phone call wasn’t a good thing, but b/c I had something better, the real deal!

Read Vs 9-14

1. The heart of man isn't interested in helping mankind unless there's something in it for them.
2. They wanted Jesus to heal this man, not for the man's benefit but so they could condemn Jesus as a Sabbath-breaker.
 - a. Tradition breaker
 - b. Man-made rule breaker
3. Read Matt 15:1-9
 - a. Don't let your tradition keep you from the more important things of love/compassion and mercy.

Read Vs 15-21

1. Vs 18 – Messiah would be a living example of what justice is like.
2. Matthew here quotes the prophet Isaiah regarding what the Messiah would be like.
 - a. A quiet man (not as John the Baptist)
 - b. He would have great compassion for people

#2 – We preach God’s Word b/c it forces the choice of belief or blasphemy (Vs 22-37)

Read Vs 22-24

1. Question is raised, “where does Jesus get His power and authority from?”
2. Jesus activity was forcing them to believe on Him or blaspheme Him.
3. Same for us: our lifestyle of believing the Word should force others into thinking about where they stand.

Read Vs 25-28

1. Vs 25-26
 - a. Jesus isn’t “working for Satan” in casting out devils b/c that would be counterproductive.
 - b. Satan is wicked bad, but he’s not stupid.
2. Vs 27
 - a. Pharisees had their exorcists that used herbs and magical formulas w/ insignificant results.
 - b. They wouldn’t call their own attempts satanic

3. Vs 28

- a. For the resultant answer, there is only one answer...He's from God.
- b. As many people try doing today, they couldn't deny the actual miracles, so they take this feeble attempt to attribute them to Satan.

Read Vs 29-30

1. Jesus is stronger than the strong man, Satan.
2. These miracles prove that Jesus is stronger than Satan and not under Satan's authority.
3. You either believe Jesus & help Him gather people unto Him or you blaspheme Jesus in unbelief scattering people to their own devices.

Read Vs 31-32

1. They had just witnessed the working of the Holy Spirit of God, and they "spoke evil" of Him.
2. Rejecting the input of the Holy Spirit in your life is **THE THING** that will keep you from God!
3. Vs 32 – Look at the precision of the problem

- a. It's not the rejection of the Godman Jesus' workings, it's the rejection of the HS's workings thru Jesus.
- b. And so it is for all of us down thru history.
- c. The HS intersects our life and we face a choice.
 - i. Belief Him unto eternal life
 - ii. Blaspheme Him unto eternal death.

Read Vs 33-38

1. There are only two choices.
2. Read Rom 10:9-10
3. If you've never publicly confessed with your mouth that Jesus Christ is God's Savior, then you remain in the state of blasphemy and eternal death.

#3 – We preach God’s Word b/c it’s effective to save unlike signs & wonders (Vs 38-45)

Read Vs 38-40

1. What did they want?
 - a. They just wanted a display of God’s power.
 - b. They weren’t looking to repent and glorify God in their lives.
 - c. They just wanted to experience the power of signs.
2. What is it that God wants? Salvation of souls by converted hearts.
 - a. Turn to I Cor 1:21-24
 - b. It will ALWAYS be the giving of God’s Word that converts hearts & saves souls!
 - c. Don’t get distracted with religious talk or fanciful experiences.
 - i. Read Jer 23:28-29
 - d. We should preach about the ultimate sign, which the resurrection of Jesus from the dead!

Read Vs 41-42

1. It was the preaching and teaching of Jonah & Solomon that converted souls!
2. These men have FIRST-HAND preaching & teaching from Jesus but instead they just lust after seeing the supernatural experience
 - a. It's no wonder Jesus called them an adulterous generation.
 - b. They lust after the next big thing instead of being committed to God's eternal truth.
 - c. Many today to the same thing.
3. Notice He says He's greater than Jonah & Solomon. The audacity!!!
 - a. This would seem very prideful.
 - b. We should be able to tell people that Jesus has the power to do what your idols can't.
 - c. We should be able to tell people that Jesus has the power to give rest, that your religion can't give.

Read Vs 43-45

1. In context to man Jesus just cast out demon.
 - a. When cleaned by Christ, he now has the choice to serve Christ or reject.
 - b. If reject, it will be even worse for the man.
2. In further context to these Scribes/Pharisees seeking a sign, this is also true.
 - a. When given the teaching of Christ, they now have the choice to serve Christ or reject.
 - b. If reject, it will be even worse for them.
3. And the same is true today.

Read Vs 46-50

1. Jesus did have earthly half-brothers & sisters.
2. This isn't to spite the importance of earthly relationships but to highly esteem the spiritual relationships with those who responded to the preaching of God's Word!
 - a. Jesus' bros weren't saved until much later.
 - b. Jesus took great care for His mom at cross.

Conclusion –

So, we've seen three reasons to preach God's Word

1. It's designed to help and not to hurt
 - a. The Holy Spirit's guidance to your heart isn't to prevent you from good things but to provide you good things.
2. It forces the choice of belief or blasphemy
 - a. Just put Jesus in front of people and it will compel them to make a decision.
3. It is effective to save unlike signs & wonders
 - a. Great experiences and rituals cannot convert a sinful heart
 - b. Only the offering Jesus' sacrifice thru preaching and teaching can do that.