



Sermon Discussion Questions - August 21 & 23, 2026
Matthew Part 3: Week 16
Matthew 12:38-50

Ice Breaker: *This week's lesson warned us about the dangers of trying to change ourselves apart from Jesus. We all know what it's like to try to fix something on our own and failing.*

- **Q1: Have you ever tried to fix or improve something on your own, only to realize you really needed help? What happened?**

Read Matthew 12:38-50 together. Some people reject Christ outright, but there's another danger: trying to change our lives without actually surrendering them to Jesus.

- **Q2: Why do you think we sometimes prefer to “clean ourselves up” rather than surrender ourselves to Christ?**
- **Q3: What's the difference between simply trying to become a better person and being genuinely transformed by Christ?**

Trying to get our house “in order” without surrendering it to King Jesus is simply housekeeping for demons.

- **Q4: Where are you most tempted to “clean house” in your own strength? Are there areas where you’re attempting to try harder, manage better, or exercise more self-control instead of bringing that area under Jesus’s rule?**
- **Q5: What would it look like for you to move from simply trying to change your behavior to genuinely surrendering that area to Jesus?**

Those who give their lives to heart-level obedience become part of God's family, with God as their Father and Jesus as their brother.

- **Q6: When you think about the family of God, where do you see room for growth in how you love, care for, and cherish other believers?**
- **Q7: How can our small group better reflect the kind of family God intends His people to be?**

Whether our tendency is to resist obedience to Christ or to try to change ourselves in our own strength, Jesus invites each of us to respond to Him personally.

- **Q8: Where might Jesus be inviting you to submit to His kingship in a new way? How can you respond in obedience today?**

Take a few minutes to encourage each other, and spend some time in prayer together!