



## **MATTHEW**

### **OPPOSITION TO JESUS INTENSIFIES**

#### **Matthew 12**

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#### CONTEXT

- Identity of Jesus – Son of Abraham, Son of King David, Son of God, Messiah, Jesus of Nazareth, King of the Jews (Matthew 1-3)
- Core Message of Jesus – “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near.” (Matthew 4:17)
- Discipleship Standards – Matthew 5-7
- Authority of Jesus – Matthew 8-9
- Jesus now sends His disciples/apostles forth into a Mission that still has deep ramifications for His followers today! (Matthew 10)
- The growing opposition to Jesus is recorded in Matthew 11-12.

#### THE MOUNTING OPPOSITION

In the first century, Jewish leaders were fiercely loyal to what they considered to be the most sacred things: the temple, the ceremonial law, and the Sabbath. As Jesus engaged in ministry across Galilee in particular, Jewish leaders perceived Jesus as a threat to all three of these. He also had to deal with doubt from John the Baptist and distractions from His family.

- Matthew 11:1-5 – John the Baptist sent messengers to Jesus to question Him about His identity as the Messiah.
- Matthew 11:20-24 – Even the towns in Galilee that witnessed His miracles struggled to embrace Him in repentance.
- Matthew 12:2 – Jesus was accused of allowing His disciples to violate the Sabbath laws.
- Matthew 12:14 – The Pharisees began to plan to kill Jesus.

- Matthew 12:24 – The Pharisees accused Jesus of being in partnership with the demonic leader Beelzebul.
- Matthew 12:38 – The Pharisees and teachers of the Law demanded to see a sign from Jesus.
- Matthew 12:46-50 – The family of Jesus had to adjust their relationship to Him.

## KEY TAKEAWAYS FROM MATTHEW 12

1. Jesus is the Authoritative Interpreter of Scripture.
2. Jesus is greater than the Temple.
3. Jesus is Lord of the Sabbath.
4. Jesus fulfilled the Messianic prophecies of the Old Testament.
5. Jesus has power over evil.
6. The Kingdom of God has come on earth!
7. Blaspheming the Holy Spirit is unforgivable.
8. The resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead is THE sign of the ages!
9. Empty religion is dangerous!
10. Finally, we should expect opposition if we serve God and follow Jesus faithfully.