

Gospels Study and Discussion Questions

Lesson Five: Opposition and Other Responses to Jesus – Matthew 11-16; Luke 7, 13, 17; John 5, 10

Read Matthew 11:1-24 and 14:1-12.

- 1) Based on what you have learned so far in the *Gospels* study, why might John the Baptist have been looking for confirmation that Jesus was the Messiah?
- 2) According to Matthew 11:16-24, how did most of the people of Jesus' day respond to Him?
- 3) Jesus confused both John and the crowds, but John's response to his confusion was very differently than the masses'. Contrast their attitudes. When you face something in God's plan that you find confusing, do you respond more like John or the masses?

Read Matthew 12:1-14, Luke 13:10-17, and John 5:1-18, 10:22-39.

- 4) List the attitudes and responses to Jesus in these accounts. Include verse numbers.
- 5) What were the Jewish religious leaders' specific allegations against Jesus? For each allegation, try to find one verse that best represents Jesus' response.
- 6) Consider Jesus' teachings about the Sabbath in the previously listed passages along with what the following passages reveal: Exodus 20:8-11, Isaiah 58:13-14, Matthew 5:17, Mark 2:27 and Hebrews 4:9-10. What do these passages teach that helps you better understand Sabbath observance?

Read Matthew 12:22-45, 15:1-20, and 16:1-4.

- 7) Explain how Jesus' response to each confrontation with the Pharisees relates to their accusation.
 - a) How did Jesus respond to the Pharisees' accusation that He drove out demons by Satanic power (Matthew 12:24), according to the following passages?
 1. Matthew 12:25-29
 2. Matthew 12:30-36
 - b) How did Jesus respond to the Pharisees' accusation that He did not honor tradition (Matthew 15:2), according to the following passages?
 1. Matthew 15:3-9
 2. Matthew 15:11-20
- 8) What do you find ironic about the Jews' demand for a miraculous sign from Jesus in Matthew 12:38-45 and 16:1-4? What kind of sign did Jesus say they would get? (See Jonah 1:17, 2:10 with 1 Corinthians 15:3-4 and Matthew 12:40.)
- 9) The Pharisees' response to Jesus was defensive, angry, and self-righteous. Reread Matthew 12:34b. What has come out of your mouth recently that makes a statement about the condition of your heart?

Read Matthew 12:46-50, 13:53-58, 15:21-28, Luke 7:36-50, 17:11-19, and John 6:66-71.

- 10) Matthew 12:46, 13:53-58, and John 6:66 mention groups close to Jesus: His family, His hometown, and His larger group of disciples.
 - a) What does John 7:3-5 tell us about the response of Jesus' own brothers to Him?

- b) Assume Matthew 13:53-58 refers to a second opportunity Jesus gave His hometown after their earlier rejection of him (recorded in Luke 4:14-30). What position did the people of Nazareth take on this occasion and what was the result?
 - c) According to John 6:66, how did a great number of Jesus' disciples eventually respond to Him?
- 11) The following accounts reveal the responses of a precious minority. Briefly describe the response of each.
- a) Matthew 15:21-28
 - b) Luke 7:36-50
 - c) Luke 17:11-19
 - d) John 6:66-69
- 12) How do you need to respond to Jesus' work on your behalf in your life today (be specific)?

Concerning Opposition to Christ (including Matthew 11:25-30 and 12:15-21)

- 13) According to the following verses, what are some of the ways that God's enemy has opposed the person and work of the Messiah throughout human history: Genesis 3:15, Exodus 1:15-16, Matthew 2:16, Matthew 4:1-11, Luke 23:33, Acts 8:1, 1 Peter 5:8, and Revelation 19:11-21, 20:7-10?
- 14) Jesus said, "Whoever is not with me is against me, and whoever does not gather with me scatters" (Matthew 12:30). Which person who is "against Christ" needs your intercession in prayer for them this week, and considering Matthew 11:25-30, how will you pray?
- 15) According to Matthew 11:25 and 12:14-21 and any other passage in this lesson, how did Jesus handle opposition? How could you benefit by following His example (relate this in a specific way to your own present life)?