

Chapter 12

1. According to the supplemental ordinances that the religious leaders had established to “help” people keep God’s Law, picking heads of grain was equal to harvesting, which was unlawful on the Sabbath. How does Jesus challenge the Pharisees’ understanding of Sabbath?
  
2. In verse 7, Jesus again exhorts the Pharisees to know the meaning of God’s word in Hosea 6:6: “I desire mercy, not sacrifice.” The Hebrew word translated as mercy is *hesed*, which can mean either right behavior toward others, or loyalty to God. Which meaning do you think Jesus intended?
  
3. What’s the irony of verse 14 in relationship to the previous verses?
  
4. **Personal Sharing:** Do you think Christians should “keep the Sabbath?” If so, how? If not, why not?
  
5. Who is the “strong man” Jesus refers to in verse 29?
6. Considering what the Pharisees said about Jesus in vs. 24, how does a person blaspheme the Holy Spirit?
  
7. Why do you think blasphemy against the Holy Spirit will not be forgiven?
  
8. **Personal Sharing:** What do our words reveal about us? Do verses 33-37 touch a nerve in you?
  
9. Having seen the true character of the Pharisees and teachers of the law, what does Jesus know when they ask for a miraculous sign?
  
10. Whom does Jesus claim to be greater than in vs. 6? In vs. 41? In vs. 42? Whom does Jesus say will condemn “this generation” on the day of judgment?
  
11. In Jesus’ allegory, why are the evil spirits able to re-occupy the house?
  
12. According to Mark 3:21, why did Jesus’ mother and brothers come to speak with him?

Chapter 13

13. Considering vs. 9, what is Jesus’ purpose for speaking in parables to the crowd?
  
14. What do you think vs. 12 means?
  
15. **Personal Sharing:** Can you name specifically the thorns that might be choking the seed planted in you, making it unproductive?
  
16. In these parables, Jesus is describing the kingdom of heaven (the reign of God). What do you learn about the kingdom of heaven in each?
  - Parable of the weeds –
  - Parable of the mustard seed –
  - Parable of the yeast –
  - Parable of the hidden treasure –
  - Parable of the pearl –
  - Parable of the net –
  
17. What was the problem in Jesus’ hometown of Nazareth?

**Sermon Notes**

Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Presenter: \_\_\_\_\_ Text: \_\_\_\_\_