



MATTHEW

The Savior-King and His Kingdom

The King's Way!

Matthew 12:38-50

Message #34 of 80 – S1064

Sermon given on September 24, 2023



Sunday Morning Service

Pastor Rick Lancaster

The King's Way!

Matthew 12:38-50

Opening Comments

- Open your Bibles to **Matthew 12**
- Today, we continue a series through the gospel of Matthew – **The Savior-King and His Kingdom**
- Let's open this time in our service with a word of prayer. - **Pray**

Teaching

- **The King's Way!**
- Once again Jesus finds Himself dealing with the scribes and Pharisees.
- **Matthew 12:38**
- At first glance, we might wonder what the big deal is with their request.
- The problem is that it reveals a problem in their heart.
- They have just witnessed Jesus heal the blind and mute man who was possessed by a demon.
- What more did they need to see?
- They wanted something more than what He had already done.
- The problem with needing a miracle so that you can believe is that no miracle produces faith (**Romans 10:17**).

So then faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.

- They are asking for a sign that proves Jesus is the Messiah.
- They wanted a sign from heaven that was different than what He had already done.
- There was only one more sign that Jesus would do – He would rise from the dead!
- But even that sign was not going to be enough for most of them (**Luke 16:31**).

But he said to him, 'If they do not hear Moses and the prophets, neither will they be persuaded though one rise from the dead.'

- Jesus had already provided more than enough evidence for them to believe. **J.C. Ryle**

"There was evidence enough to convince them, but they had no wish to be convinced."

- There is a way in which this applies to believers as well as to unbelievers.
- God expects a complete surrender of our will to His.
- Andrew Murray refers to this as absolute surrender.
- Most Christians believe enough to be saved and are headed for heaven but don't fully trust God with their whole lives.
- They are not seeking Him and His righteousness.
- They are not loving Him with their whole heart, soul, mind, and strength.
- They are not diligently seeking Him in His Word and through prayer.
- Jesus left the perfection of heaven to come down to His creation and make a way for all of us to be saved.
- But not just saved, but also so that we could live a better life (**John 10:10b**).

I have come that they may have life, and that they may have it more abundantly.

- That abundant life is not lived passively, believing in your higher power.
- It is lived actively pursuing God and surrendering completely to His will for your life.
- Just as the scribes and Pharisees had no excuse for not believing in Jesus, Christ-followers have no excuse for not committing their whole life to Jesus and His will.
- Jesus gives them an answer.
- **Matthew 12:39-40**
- Jesus says the only sign he was going to give them that was different than every other sign He has already done is the resurrection.
- Jesus was going to be betrayed, beaten, scourged, crucified, and die.
- And then on the third day He would rise from the dead.
- They wouldn't believe that either.
- **Matthew 12:41-42**
- Jonah preached the Word of God – Jesus is the Word of God made flesh.
- 'queen of the South' = Sheba – she traveled a great distance to hear the wisdom God gave Solomon – Jesus is the wisdom of God.

- If someone settles for something other than Jesus, they are settling for something less than all they could have.
- Jesus then speaks a parable about the religious system that created the scribes and Pharisees.
- **Matthew 12:43-45**
- This is a parable regarding incomplete repentance and faith.
- Incomplete or insincere faith is worse than no faith because they know enough about God to ignore or resist His call on their life.
- Jesus is speaking against the shallow religion of the Jews at that time.
- They had all the religious rituals of faith but lacked the reality of faith.
- For most Jews, Judaism had become a godless religious duty.
- The same thing can be said for much of the Christian church.
- Paul warned us this would be true (**2 Timothy 3:5a**).
- ...**having a form of godliness but denying its power...**
- These are churches and people who resemble Christ but lack the presence and power of the Holy Spirit.
- There are so-called Christian churches practicing all forms of idolatry and Eastern mysticism.
- They do not use God's Word as the basis for what they do and instead use the things of man or of this world.
- This also describes a person who doesn't fully come to Christ.
- They may make a confession of faith, say they have repented their sins, and even attempt to reform their ways.
- But then, after a while they fall away.
- The apostle Peter challenges us to make sure that our salvation is real (**2 Peter 1:10-11**).

Therefore, brethren, be even more diligent to make your call and election sure, for if you do these things you will never stumble; 11 for so an entrance will be supplied to you abundantly into the everlasting kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

- We do that by continuing to seek Him in His Word and in prayer, through commitment to His church, and through true fellowship with other believers.
- The more diligent we are to seek God, the more assured we become of our salvation.
- This godless church reaches its peak during the Tribulation Period.

- As Jesus is talking His family shows up.
- **Matthew 12:46-49**
- This account is also recorded in Mark 3 and Luke 8.
- In this account Jesus is not diminishing familial relationships, He is elevating spiritual relationships to equality with familial relationships and obedience to God's will above all other relationships.
- **Matthew 12:50**
- Obedience to God's will is not just something we have to do so that God isn't angry with us.
- We obey God because it is one of the ways we maintain our relationship with Christ.
- How amazing is it that Jesus calls us brothers and sisters? Jesus, our Savior King is our brother.
- There is great encouragement in the word 'whoever.'
- No matter how small or weak your faith is – Jesus calls you one of His closest relatives.
- No matter how pathetic you might seem in your own eyes, you are a brother or sister of Christ.
- The other reality this reveals is our relationship with each other.
- As Christ-followers, who seek to obey God in everything we are brothers and sisters.
- We are also brothers and sisters of Christ-followers all around the world.
- No matter what type of church they attend, the nation they call home, the language they speak, the color of their skin, their status in their culture, their wealth or poverty, or any other way of defining them – they are our brothers and sisters.
- There may be things about the way they worship God that we disagree with, but if they are true Christ-followers – they are family.
- They might be the weird uncle of the family, but they are family.
- This should also be seen as a warning to those who would mock Christians or persecute the church.
- They are doing those things to the relatives of the King of kings and the Judge of the whole world.

- As David and the worship team make their back up here, I want you to reflect on the fact that Jesus thinks of you as a brother or sister.
- That is a powerful thing.
- One of the great human needs is to feel like you belong.
- If you have put your faith in Christ – you belong in His family.
- And nothing the world says or thinks can change that.
- Not even your own fears, anxieties, or worries can change the reality that Jesus loves you and has made you a brother or sister.
- Let that be a source of encouragement this week.
- Let it also motivate you to seek Him more. - **Pray**