

Treasure Hunt

- How is the Lord's interaction with the scribes and Pharisees in 12:38-45 like his interaction with Nicodemus in John 3?
- Why does the Lord speak sternly with people who come to him courteously?
- What two meanings can the word γενεα have, and which does it have here?
- What lesson about preaching the gospel should we draw from these examples, and from Paul's commentary on them in 1 Corinthians 1?
- Why should the resurrection of the Lord be a "sign" to the Jews?
- What place does the resurrection have in our preaching to Gentiles?
- How does the story of Jonah show us the nature of true repentance?
- Why is the Lord greater than Jonah?

Overview of Matthew 12

Rejection by Pharisees

His True People

1-8 Picking grain on the Sabbath

2 But when the **Pharisees** saw *it*, they said unto him, Behold, thy disciples do that which is not lawful to do upon the sabbath day.

9-14 Healing on the Sabbath

14 Then the **Pharisees** went out, and held a council against him, how they might destroy him.

15-21 Healing great multitudes

18 he shall shew judgment to the **Gentiles**.
21 And in his name shall the **Gentiles** trust.

22-37 Casting out a Demon

24 But when the **Pharisees** heard *it*, they said, This *fellow* doth not cast out devils, but by Beelzebub the prince of the devils.

38-45 Seeking a Sign

38 Then certain of the scribes and of the **Pharisees** answered, saying, Master, we would see a sign from thee.

46-50 His true family

50 For **whosoever shall do the will of my Father** which is in heaven, the same is my brother, and sister, and mother.

How (not) to win friends ...

John 3	Matthew 12
1 There was a man of the Pharisees , named Nicodemus, a ruler of the Jews:	38 Then certain of the scribes and of the Pharisees ...
2 The same came to Jesus by night, and said unto him, Rabbi , we know that thou art a teacher come from God: for no man can do these miracles that thou doest, except God be with him.	... answered, saying, Master , we would see a sign from thee.
3 Jesus answered and said unto him, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God .	39 But he answered and said unto them, An evil and adulterous generation seeketh after a sign; and there shall no sign be given to it, but the sign of the prophet Jonas:

Mat 23:2-7 ... The scribes and the Pharisees ... love ... **to be called of men, Rabbi, Rabbi.**

Generation: γεννημα vs. γενεα

12:34 “**generation** [γεννημα Strong’s 1081] of vipers” → *offspring, children*

12:39, 41, 42, 45 “evil and adulterous, wicked **generation** [γενεα Strong’s 1074]

- People who *live at the same time* (a “cohort”):

Matt. 1:17 So all the **generations** from Abraham to David *are* fourteen **generations**; and from David until the carrying away into Babylon *are* fourteen **generations**; and from the carrying away into Babylon unto Christ *are* fourteen **generations**.

- People with *shared values*:

Ps. 14:5 There were they in great fear: for God *is* in the **generation** of the righteous.

Ps. 24:6 This *is* the **generation** of them that seek him, that seek thy face, O Jacob.

Which Direction is the Decision?

Jos 5:13 And it came to pass, when Joshua was by Jericho, that he lifted up his eyes and looked, and, behold, there stood a man over against him with his sword drawn in his hand: and Joshua went unto him, and said unto him, **Art thou for us, or for our adversaries?** 14 And he said, **Nay**; but as captain of the host of the LORD am I now come. And Joshua fell on his face to the earth, and did worship, and said unto him, What saith my lord unto his servant?

1 Cor. 1:21 For after that in the wisdom of God the world by wisdom knew not God, it pleased God by the foolishness of preaching to save them that believe. 22 For **the Jews require a sign**, and the Greeks seek after wisdom: 23 But we preach Christ crucified, unto the Jews a stumblingblock, and unto the Greeks foolishness; 24 But unto them which are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God, and the wisdom of God. 25 Because the foolishness of God is wiser than men; and the weakness of God is stronger than men.

Promised in the OT:

The Sign of Resurrection

Ezek 37:12 Therefore prophesy and say unto them, Thus saith the Lord GOD; Behold, O my people, I will open your graves, and **cause you to come up out of your graves**, and bring you into the land of Israel. 13 And ye shall know that I *am* the LORD, when I have opened your graves, O my people, and **brought you up out of your graves**, 14 And shall put my spirit in you, and ye shall live, and I shall place you in your own land: then shall ye know that I the LORD have spoken *it*, and performed *it*, saith the LORD.

Partial fulfillment when our Lord died:

Matt 27:50 Jesus, when he had cried again with a loud voice, yielded up the ghost. 51 And, behold, the veil of the temple was rent in twain from the top to the bottom; and the earth did quake, and the rocks rent; 52 **And the graves were opened; and many bodies of the saints which slept arose**, 53 And came out of the graves after his resurrection, and went into the holy city, and appeared unto many.

Central to the apostolic message:

Act 17:31 Because he hath appointed a day, in the which he will judge the world in righteousness by *that* man whom he hath ordained; *whereof* he hath given assurance unto all *men*, in that he hath raised him from the dead.

Did Jonah really die?

Jon 2:1 Then Jonah prayed unto the LORD his God out of the fish's belly, 2 And said, I cried by reason of mine affliction unto the LORD, and he heard me; **out of the belly of hell שְׂאוּל** cried I, and thou heardest my voice. ... 6 I went down to the bottoms of the mountains; the earth with her bars was about me for ever: yet hast thou brought up my life from **corruption שְׁהַת [the pit]**, O LORD my God.

Two Lessons from the OT

from Jonah 3	from 1 Kings 10
41 The men of Nineveh shall rise in judgment with this generation, and shall condemn it:	42 The queen of the south shall rise up in the judgment with this generation, and shall condemn it:
because OTI they repented at the preaching of Jonas;	for OTI she came from the uttermost parts of the earth to hear the wisdom of Solomon;
and, behold, a greater than Jonas <i>is</i> here.	and, behold, a greater than Solomon <i>is</i> here.

Deu 32:21 They have moved me to jealousy with that which is not God; they have provoked me to anger with their vanities: and I will move them to jealousy with those which are not a people; I will provoke them to anger with a foolish nation. [cf. Rom 10:19]

Lessons from the OT (2)

Jon 3:4 And Jonah began to enter into the city a day's journey, and he cried, and said, Yet forty days, and Nineveh shall be **overthrown**. 5 So the people of Nineveh believed God, and proclaimed a fast, and put on sackcloth, from the greatest of them even to the least of them. [The king of Nineveh:] 8 yea, let them **turn every one from his evil way**, and from the violence that *is* in their hands. 9 Who can tell *if* God will turn and repent, and turn away from his fierce anger, that we perish not?

Act 17:30 And the times of this ignorance God winked at; but now commandeth all men every where to **repent**: 31 Because he hath appointed a day, in the which he will **judge** the world in righteousness by *that* man whom he hath ordained; *whereof* he hath given assurance unto all *men*, in that he hath raised him from the dead.

Mat 4:17 From that time Jesus began to preach, and to say, **Repent**: for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.

Mat 3:1 In those days came John the Baptist, preaching in the wilderness of Judaea, 2 And saying, **Repent** ye: for the kingdom of heaven is at hand. ... 7 But when he saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees come to his baptism, he said unto them, O generation of vipers, who hath warned you to flee from the wrath to come? 8 Bring forth therefore fruits meet for repentance: