

**Study Guide**  
**The Kingdom Has Come**  
**Matthew 12:38-50**

**Big Idea: Believe the signs, enter the relationship and do the will of God.**

I. Believe the signs. Read Matthew 12:38-42.

How has God revealed Himself to you in your life? Why do you think Jesus accused the Pharisees of being evil and adulterous? Why do you think Nineveh and the Queen of the South come out on top compared to Israel in the judgment? Discuss.

II. Enter the Relationship. Read Matthew 12:43-45.

Discuss the concept of behavioral modification without inviting Christ into your heart. What are the consequences of that? What can we as Christ-followers do to make sure our house is not "empty"?

III. Do the will of God. Read Matthew 12:46-50.

Notice that Jesus values those who live in a personal relationship with Him, even more than family ties. What does it look like for you to live in a close, personal relationship with Jesus? How does that affect you in doing the will of God? Discuss.

## Message Slides

### Responding to the Kingdom

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#### I. Believe the Signs (v.38-42)

<sup>38</sup>Then some of the scribes and Pharisees answered him, saying, "Teacher, we wish to see a sign from you." <sup>39</sup>But he answered them, "An evil and adulterous generation seeks for a sign, but no sign will be given to it except the sign of the prophet Jonah. <sup>40</sup>For just as Jonah was three days and three nights in the belly of the great fish, so will the Son of Man be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth.

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A. Spiritual Adultery (v.38-39a)

B. The Ultimate Sign (v.39b)

C. Judged by our Response (v.41-42)

<sup>41</sup>The men of Nineveh will rise up at the judgment with this generation and condemn it, for they repented at the preaching of Jonah, and behold, something greater than Jonah is here. <sup>42</sup>The queen of the South will rise up at the judgment with this generation and condemn it, for she came from the ends of the earth to hear the wisdom of Solomon, and behold, something greater than Solomon is here.

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#### II. Enter the Relationship (v.43-45)

<sup>43</sup>"When the unclean spirit has gone out of a person, it passes through waterless places seeking rest, but finds none. <sup>44</sup>Then it says, 'I will return to my house from which I came.' And when it comes, it finds the house empty, swept, and put in order. <sup>45</sup>Then it goes and brings with it seven other spirits more evil than itself, and they enter and dwell there, and the last state of that person is worse than the first. So also will it be

#### III. Do the Will of God (v.46-50)

<sup>46</sup>While he was still speaking to the people, behold, his mother and his brothers stood outside, asking to speak to him. <sup>47</sup>But he replied to the man who told him, "Who is my mother, and who are my brothers?" <sup>48</sup>And stretching out his hand toward his disciples, he said, "Here are my mother and my brothers! <sup>49</sup>For whoever does the will of my Father in heaven is my brother and sister and mother."

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Psalm 1:1-3

Oh, the joys of those who do not follow the advice of the wicked,  
or stand around with sinners, or join in with mockers.

•But they delight in the law of the Lord, meditating on it day and night.

•They are like trees planted along the riverbank, bearing fruit each season.

Their leaves never wither, and they prosper in all they do.