GOD’S CHOSEN SERVANT

Matthew 12:1–50

Key Verse: 12:20

1. What fault did the Pharisees find? (1–2) With what two illustrations did Jesus defend his disciples? (3–5) If they had been willing to learn, how would the quotation from Hosea 6:6 have helped them? (7; 9:13) What did Jesus teach about himself and about the Sabbath? (6,8; cf. Col2:16–17) What spiritual lessons can we learn from this event?

2. When he got to the synagogue, what else did Jesus encounter? (9–10) What did he teach? (11–12) Despite the personal risk, why do you think he healed the man with the shriveled hand on the Sabbath? (13–14) How did this further validate who he was? What does his example show us about how to fulfill God’s laws?

3. What did Jesus do next? (15–16) What meaning did Matthew see in this? (17–21; cf. Isa42:1–4) How was God’s view of Jesus different from the Pharisees’? (18a; cf. 3:17) What were Jesus’ power source and message? (18b) How is his gentle, compassionate nature described? (19–20) Why is he a source of hope to the nations? (21)

4. When he healed a blind and mute man, what were the two reactions to Jesus? (22–24) How did Jesus answer them? (25–29; cf. 4:1–11; Col1:13) About what did he warn them? (30–32) What did he teach about our words? (33–37) Why is slandering God’s servants and his work such a serious matter?

5. Why might some Pharisees and teachers of the law have asked for a miraculous sign? (38) In what sense were they “adulterous”? (39a) What is the sign of Jonah? (39b–40) How were the Ninevites and the Queen of the South a good example? (41–42) What is the danger to those who try to clean up their inner lives only on their own? (43–45)

6. When he was told that his mother and brothers had come to see him, how did Jesus respond, and why? (46–50) How does this offer us a positive alternative to all the hostility to Jesus in this chapter? What should we learn from Jesus’ words here?