

Matthew
Chapters 11 & 12

1

**Chapters 11 & 12
Near the
Center
of the
Gospel of Matthew**

2

1. 11:2-6 Question of John Baptist
2. 11:7-19 Lord teaches concerning John
3. 11:20-24 Judgment on rejectors
4. 11:25-30 Come unto me
5. 12:1-8 David's time of rejection / Lord Jesus judged re: Sabbath
6. 12:9-13 Withered hand healed – on Sabbath
7. 12:14-21 Judgment to Gentiles
8. 12:22-37 Blasphemy against Holy Spirit – Rejection / Judgment
9. 12:38-45 Sign of Jonah
10. 12:46-50 New relationships – those who do His will

3

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Leading theme of judgment. The judgment. All major sections of teaching in Matthew end with references to judgments to come.

6

End of ch. 7.	Judgments to come
End of ch. 13.	Judgments to come
End of ch. 10, 15, 23, etc.	Judgements to come.
End of ch. 18	Judgments to come
End of ch. 25	Judgments to come

7

“Judgment” – 11:22; 12:18, 20, 36, 41, 42

Now not only teaching section but narrative section as well filled with this theme.

Compare	11:22,23,24	12:36-37
	12:38-45	

8

11:20-24 Procedures of court, as well as judgment, described. Prosecution will raise question of the amount of evidence defendants had at disposal.

12:38-45 Question of evidence – witnesses called!

12:36 Held accountable to what has been said.

Chapter 13 Wheat, tares and dragnet - actual sentence.

9

If evidence is so vital, do we find it in this section?

Note the question of John in chapter 11.

A section filled with evidence that Jesus is the Christ. If at the final judgment men and women will be called into account for what they did with the evidence – then there must be evidence available to them!

The God of Heaven Does Consider the Amount of Evidence an Individual has Received

10

Leading question: “Art thou he”? (“Are you Him?”) 11:3

1) Evidence 11:5

2) Then discussion with crowd about evidence of John’s ministry. They should have accepted it and his message – but instead, rejected both.

3) Evidence of the Lord’s ministry. 11:19 Here was Wisdom incarnate. How would they assess His teaching and works? Will they 1) Justify or 2) reject and denounce them?

This Is the Central Issue Before Humanity

11

Some saw and heard and believed.
Others, rejected.

2 Stories

12:1-8 Plucking grain on the Sabbath

12:9-13 Healing a man on the sabbath

12:22 & following -the assessment of the Pharisees

12

Note: 11:5 if He fulfilled this part of Isaiah's prophesied program, then the rest would also be fulfilled.

Note the irony (sarcasm) of the Lord – 11:7-19. What were they looking for when baptized by John who proclaimed Jesus as the Messiah?!

13

Note how the Lord responds to the Pharisee's accusation. See how He points to the foolishness of their accusations. Why bother? They are putting themselves on very dangerous ground! They are getting to the very edge of being without hope! The Lord attempts to reach them by exposing the folly of their decision.

We might perhaps here see a prototype of that great and final judgment. God may show humans that they have violated their own standards.

14

John preached the “ax was laid at the root of the tree”.

Where was the judgment John preached of?

Furthermore, what John preached was what the Old Testament prophets proclaimed.

Where was the “judgment” phase of Messiah’s program?

What also seemed to exacerbate the problem was that John was now in prison, placed there by an unrighteous king. What happened to evil being put down and righteousness prevailing?

15

This central section is concerned with the claims of Jesus to be the Messiah. What then of the fulfillment of all those prophecies telling of the putting down of evil? These chapters give more than a hint of the timetable of Messiah’s kingdom program. Note in 12:20 the reference in the quotation from Isaiah and the significant word, “till” (until). Compare also 13:30; 13:33; Psalm 110; Hebrews 1:14; 2:8

16

The fact that evil was not put down at His first coming is strong evidence that He is Messiah and that He was fulfilling Old Testament prophecy and the program was right on track.

Note the teaching section that follows: Chapter 13; the mysteries of the kingdom of heaven. God's program in this age: **not the sword going forth in judgment but the Sower going forth to sow the Word of God.**

Those who believe now demonstrate the genuineness of their faith in a world where Satan and evil are still allowed to exist.

17

11:28 compare 11:25-27

“Come” on the basis of
exclusive revelation
(v.27)

18

Observe the Son's:

(1) Ability

(2) Authority

(3) Willingness

to make the Father known!

Revealed to babes. Yet in Christ, we have the wisdom of God. The Spirit of God reveals the "hidden wisdom".