

Day 1

 Please pray for holy guidance and insight before you begin today's study.

Jesus Heals on the Sabbath and Questions Jewish Rules

⁹ Going on from that place, he went into their synagogue, ¹⁰ and a man with a shriveled hand was there. Looking for a reason to accuse Jesus, they asked him, "Is it lawful to heal on the Sabbath?"

Q1. ***He went into their synagogue:*** Why did Jesus enter the synagogue?

Q2. ***They asked him, "Is it lawful to heal on the Sabbath?"***: ① Who is "they"? ② Why did "they" ask Jesus if "it [was] lawful to heal on the Sabbath"?

① Who is "they"?

② Why did "they" ask Jesus if "it . . . Sabbath"?

Q3. ***They asked him, "Is it lawful to heal on the Sabbath?"***: Are the Jewish religious leaders more interested in Jewish people following their laws, rules, and regulations? Or in demonstrating compassion to their fellow Jews?

Follow their laws? Or in demonstrating compassion? (Why did you circle that answer?)

Lesson 22: Matthew 12:9-30

¹¹ He said to them, "If any of you has a sheep and it falls into a pit on the Sabbath, will you not take hold of it and lift it out?"

Q4. If any of you has a sheep and it falls into a pit on the Sabbath, will you not take hold of it and lift it out: What does a sheep represent to its owner?

W A H

Q5. If any of you has a sheep and it falls into a pit on the Sabbath, will you not take hold of it and lift it out: What might happen to the sheep if the Jewish owner followed Jewish law?

Q6. ***If any of you has a sheep and it falls into a pit on the Sabbath, will you not take hold of it and lift it out:*** ① Does God demand absolute compliance with the Law? ② Was the rabbinical law in addition to that which God ordained for the Jews?

① Does God demand absolute compliance? Yes? Maybe? No? (Why did you circle that answer?)

② Was the rabbinical law in addition? Yes? Maybe? No? (Why did you circle that answer?)

Day 2

 Please pray for holy guidance and insight before you begin today's study.

¹² How much more valuable is a man than a sheep! Therefore, it is lawful to do good on the Sabbath."

Q7. ***How much more valuable is a [person] than a sheep:*** Jesus is making the comparison between a person and a sheep; in Jesus's eyes is a person more or less valuable than a sheep?

More? Less? (Thoughts?)

Lesson 22: Matthew 12:9-30

Q8. ***Therefore, it is lawful to do good on the Sabbath:*** If the law is relaxed (not applied) to save a sheep, then is Jesus asking why that same work-on-the-Sabbath restriction is applied to a person?

Yes? Maybe? No? (Thoughts?)

Q9. ***Therefore, it is lawful to do good on the Sabbath:*** Is hypocrisy evident in the rabbinical laws or in the way the Jewish religious leaders applied those laws?

Yes? Maybe? No? (Why did you circle that answer?)

¹³ Then he said to the man, "Stretch out your hand." So, he stretched it out and it was completely restored, just as sound as the other.

Q10. ***Then he said to the man, "Stretch out your hand." So, he stretched it out:*** The man was undoubtedly self-conscious about his "*shriveled hand*" and kept it hidden. Did it take faith to obey Jesus and show his hand to those gathered around him?

Yes? Maybe? No? (Why did you circle that answer?)

Q11. So, he stretched it out and it was completely restored, just as sound as the other: Did Jesus touch him?

Yes? Maybe? No? (Why did you circle that answer?)

Q12. ***So, he stretched it out and it was completely restored, just as sound as the other:*** Can you imagine the joy the man felt when he looked down at his hand and then moved it? Can you – in one or two words – describe the man's joy?

¹⁴ But the Pharisees went out and plotted how they might kill Jesus.

Q13. (Speculation) ***The Pharisees went out and plotted how they might kill Jesus:*** What motivated the Pharisees to plot Jesus's killing?

Lesson 22: Matthew 12:9-30

Day 3

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God's Chosen Servant

¹⁵ Aware of this, Jesus withdrew from that place. Many followed him, and he healed all their sick, ¹⁶ warning them not to tell who he was.

Q14. *Aware of this, Jesus withdrew from that place:* Of what was Jesus aware? (Hint: see [Matthew 12:14](#))

Q15. Many followed him, and he healed all their sick, warning them not to tell who he was: Why did Jesus instruct people He healed not to tell others "Who he was"?

John 2:4 [NIV-1984]

"Dear woman, why do you involve me?" Jesus replied, "My time has not yet come."

John 12:23 [NIV-1984]

Jesus replied, "The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified.

Q16. ^A *Many followed him, and* ^B *he healed all their sick,* ^C *warning them not to tell who he was:*

There are three interesting parts in this verse; which is the most interesting to you? Why?

A or B or C? Why?

 "Why order those He has helped not to tell anyone? It's not clear. Jesus may have been attempting not to draw the attention of Jewish religious leaders who wanted to destroy Him ([Matthew 12:14](#)). Or He may have been trying to manage the size of the crowds following Him. His mission was to bring healing to Israel and demonstrate the power of God, but He may have wanted to keep the crowds from growing so large that Romans began to look at them as some kind of revolutionary threat. Many people who believed Him to be the Messiah may have expected Him to use His power to overthrow their oppressors ([John 6:15](#)). Jesus had not come to do that and did not seem to want that expectation to grow." [© Copyright 2002-2026 Got Questions Ministries. All rights reserved. <https://www.bibleref.com/Matthew/12/Matthew-12-16.html>. Retrieved: 2026-08-11.]

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Q17. *Many followed him, and he healed all their sick, warning them not to tell who he was:* Why do you think Jesus “*healed all their sick*”? What was His motive(s)? (Hints: Training? Example? Proof? Compassion? Other?)

John 3:16 [NIV-1984]

"For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.

John 13:1 [NIV-1984]

It was just before the Passover Feast. Jesus knew that the time had come for him to leave this world and go to the Father. Having loved his own who were in the world, he now showed them the full extent of his love.

1 John 4:11-12 [NIV-1984]

¹¹ Dear friends, since God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. ¹² No one has ever seen God; but if we love one another, God lives in us and his love is made complete in us.

1 John 4:21 [New American Standard Bible (NASB)]

And this commandment we have from Him, that the one who loves God must also love his brother and sister.

Matthew 22:39 [English Standard Version (ESV)]

And a second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself.

Romans 5:8 [International Children's Bible (ICB)]

But Christ died for us while we were still sinners. In this way God shows his great love for us.

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¹⁷ This was to fulfill what was spoken through the prophet Isaiah: ¹⁸ " ① Here is my servant whom I have chosen, the one I love, in whom I delight; ② I will put my Spirit on him, and he will proclaim justice to the nations. ¹⁹ ③ He will not quarrel or cry out; no one will hear his voice in the streets. ²⁰ ④ A bruised reed he will not break, and a smoldering wick he will not snuff out, till he leads justice to victory. ²¹ ⑤ In his name the nations will put their hope."

Q18. (Verses 18-21) Based on your knowledge of the Gospels of Christ Jesus, did the Prophet Isaiah (which was written about the fifth century B.C.) accurately describe Christ Jesus?

① Here is my servant whom I have chosen, the one I love, in whom I delight Yes? Maybe? No? (Thoughts?)

② I will put my Spirit on him, and he will proclaim justice to the nations Yes? Maybe? No? (Thoughts?)

③ He will not quarrel or cry out; no one will hear his voice in the streets Yes? Maybe? No? (Thoughts?)

④ A bruised reed he will not break, and a smoldering wick he will not snuff out, till he leads justice to victory Yes? Maybe? No? (Thoughts?)

⑤ In his name the nations will put their hope Yes? Maybe? No? (Thoughts?)

Additional thoughts?

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Day 4

 Please pray for holy guidance and insight before you begin today's study.

Jews Slander Jesus and He Repudiates Accusation

²²Then they brought him a demon-possessed man who was blind and mute, and Jesus healed him, so that he could both talk and see.

Q19. *A demon-possessed man who was blind and mute*: (The loss, suffering, and triumph experienced by the young Helen Keller born 1880, who at age nineteen-months became blind and deaf, has been documented in film – *The Miracle Worker* – and books. This *demon-possessed man* did not have a teacher like the gifted Anne Sullivan who was hired as a tutor to teach the young Helen.) What can we imagine about the life of the *demon-possessed man* before his healing — before encountering Jesus? (Hints: Age? Education? Behavior? Friends?)

Age?

Education?

Behavior?

Friends?

Other?

Q20. A demon-possessed man who was blind and mute: What does “demon-possessed” mean?

Q21. *A demon-possessed man who was blind and mute*: While it is easy to focus on the “*demon-possessed man*”, ① do you think this man understood where the Pharisees were taking him? ② Was the man peaceful, acquiescent? ③ Did the Pharisees forcibly march (or carry) him to Jesus?

① Understood?

② Peaceful?

③ Did the Pharisees force him?

④ Other thoughts?

Lesson 22: Matthew 12:9-30

Q22. *Then they brought him a demon-possessed man who was blind and mute:* What motivated the Pharisees to bring this man before Jesus? (Hints: Was it kindness? Was it entrapment? Other?)



The commentator Peter Pett draws a wonderful illustration from this event.

The “*demon-possessed man*” was blind and mute (and quite possibly deaf). He was brought before Jesus. After Jesus, he could see and speak.

Before we place our trust, our faith in the Lord Christ Jesus, we, too, are blind and mute. We are blind to the Truth of Christ Jesus. If we attempt to speak about things of God, other Believers hear our voices as so much noise, unintelligible – as if we were mute. Nor did Christ Jesus know our name ([John 10:3-4, 14-15](#) ↓)

After we embrace the Lord Christ Jesus as our Savior, we see, and we speak. We worship. We study God’s Word. We see. As the new Believer gains Biblical knowledge and acts in obedience to Scripture, he or she will become fluent in proclaiming the Gospel, either through our words or our servanthood. We speak.

The Pharisees are attempting to entrap God as man, Christ Jesus. The Pharisees remain blind and mute and deaf.

Isaiah 43:1 [International Children’s Bible (ICB)]

Now this is what the Lord says. He created you, people of Jacob. He formed you, people of Israel. He says, “Don’t be afraid, because I have saved you. I have called you by name, and you are mine.

John 10:3-4, 14-15 [International Children’s Bible (ICB)]

³ The man who guards the door opens it for him. And the sheep listen to the voice of the shepherd. He calls his own sheep, using their names, and he leads them out. . . .

⁴ He brings all his sheep out. Then he goes ahead of them and leads them. They follow him because they know his voice. . . .

¹⁴ “I am the good shepherd. I know my sheep, and my sheep know me, ¹⁵ just as the Father knows me, and I know the Father. I give my life for the sheep.

Luke 10:17-20 [New Living Translation (NLT)]

[Luke’s Gospel: The Lord sent out seventy-two disciples in pairs and this passage recounts His teaching upon their return.]

¹⁷ When the seventy-two disciples returned, they joyfully reported to him, “Lord, even the demons obey us when we use your name!”

¹⁸ “Yes,” he told them, “I saw Satan fall from heaven like lightning! ¹⁹ Look, I have given you authority over all the power of the enemy, and you can walk among snakes and scorpions and crush them. Nothing will injure you. ²⁰ But don’t rejoice because evil spirits obey you; rejoice because your names are registered [or written] in heaven.”

²³ All the people were astonished and said, “Could this be the Son of David?”

Q23. *Could this be the Son of David:* To whom does the honorific “*Son of David*” refer?



The commentators at GotQuestionsMinisteries wrote:

“In some cases, people react to Christ’s miracles with fear ([Mark 5:14–17](#)) or awe ([Matthew 8:26–27](#)). This time, the people connect their amazement with the possibility that Jesus might be the long-promised Messiah: the Savior of Israel. They ask each other, ‘Can this be the Son of David?’ The name ‘Son of David’ was a title

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reserved for the Messiah. It came from God's promise to David to establish his throne over Israel forever ([2 Samuel 7:16](#)).

“Because of Isaiah's prophecies, many Israelites likely associated the time of the Messiah's coming with the healing of the blind, the deaf, the lame, and the mute ([Isaiah 35:5](#)). Jesus had accomplished all those miracles and many more. Those who witnessed this healing made the correct connection between Jesus' power and the idea that He might be the Messiah.” [© Copyright 2002-2026 Got Questions Ministries. All rights reserved. <https://www.bibleref.com/Matthew/12/Matthew-12-23.html>. Retrieved: 2026-08-16.]



The commentator Peter Pett wrote:

All the people were astonished and said, "Could this be the Son of David?"

“When the crowds saw it, their thoughts were half positive. They ‘saw’, at least to some extent, and testified well. They were amazed at what they had seen, and their thought was, ‘Can this be the son of David?’ The way the question is expressed suggests both doubt and hope, just as Israel are split into those who are more positive, and those who are more negative.

“There appears to be fairly strong evidence in Matthew that he links the title Son of David to the casting out of evil spirits and the healing of the blind ([Matthew 9:27](#); [Matthew 15:22](#); [Matthew 20:30](#); [Matthew 21:9](#); [Matthew 21:15](#) with [14](#)). This may well have arisen from the fact that Solomon the son of David was famed (even if only in legend) for teaching methods of casting out evil spirits, something which is explained in Josephus. Possibly blindness was linked to this although Josephus does not say so. Thus, they may well have seen what Jesus was doing as confirming His relationship to Solomon, the son of David, and therefore to David himself, thus evidencing [Matthew 1:1](#). This would then lead on to the thought of the Messiah. ‘Son of David’ is in fact found in the [Psalms of Solomon](#) [see also <https://www.gotquestions.org/Psalms-of-Solomon.html>] as a description of the Messiah. So at least a part of the crowd are beginning to recognise a prince of Heaven.” [Public domain. Pett, Peter. "Pett's Commentary on the Bible ". <https://www.studylight.org/commentaries/eng/pet/matthew-12.html>. Retrieved: 2026-08-16.]

2 Samuel 7:4-5^a, 12-16 [English Standard Version (ESV)]

⁴ But that same night the word of the Lord came to [the Prophet] Nathan, ⁵ “Go and tell my servant David . . .

¹² When your days are fulfilled and you lie down with your fathers, I will raise up your offspring after you, who shall come from your body [Solomon], and I will establish his kingdom. ¹³ He shall build a house for my name, and I will establish the throne of his kingdom forever. ¹⁴ I will be to him a father, and he shall be to me a son. When he commits iniquity, I will discipline him with the rod of men, with the stripes of the sons of men, ¹⁵ but my steadfast love will not depart from him, as I took it from Saul, whom I put away from before you. ¹⁶ And your house and your kingdom shall be made sure forever before me. Your throne shall be established forever.”

Jeremiah 23:5 [New Living Translation (NLT)]

“For the time is coming,” says the Lord, “when I will raise up a righteous descendant [Hebrew: a righteous branch] from King David’s line. He will be a King who rules with wisdom. He will do what is just and right throughout the land.

Psalms 89:3-4 [New American Standard Bible (NASB)]

³ “I have made a covenant with My chosen; I have sworn to My servant David, ⁴ I will establish your descendants forever; And build up your throne to all generations.”

Psalms 2:1-2, 6-7, 12 [NIV-1984]

[The writer of Psalms is generally attributed to King David. “Christ” and “Messiah” both mean “anointed”.]

¹ Why do the nations conspire and the peoples plot in vain?

² The kings of the earth take their stand and the rulers gather together against the Lord and against his Anointed One. . . .

⁶ “I have installed my King on Zion, my holy hill.” ⁷ I will proclaim the decree of the Lord: He said to me, “You are my Son; today I have become your Father. . . .

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¹² Kiss the Son, lest he be angry and you be destroyed in your way, for his wrath can flare up in a moment. Blessed are all who take refuge in him.

Q24. *All the people were astonished [or amazed]:* Matthew's description of the crowd's response is notable. What must the "demon-possessed man" have been like before Jesus healed him, compared to the healed man afterward that caused the crowd to be "astonished"? (After all, the crowds have been witnessing any number of miraculous healings.)

²⁴ But when the Pharisees heard this, they said, "It is only by Beelzebub [Bæ-ëll-zë-büb], the prince of demons, that this fellow drives out demons."

Q25. *It is only by Beelzebub, the prince of demons, that this fellow drives out demons:* The Pharisees addressed Jesus as "this fellow". What does this terminology (their tone) imply?

Kindness? Or gentleness? Or contempt? Or disrespect? Or impertinence? Or just a way to address Jesus that has no hidden meaning?

Q26. *It is only by Beelzebub:* To whom does "Beelzebub" refer?

Q27. It is only by Beelzebub, the prince of demons, that this fellow drives out demons: Are the Pharisees accusing Jesus of being a demon?

Yes? Maybe? No? (Why did you circle that answer?)

 The commentator Peter Pett delves into the original language and manuscripts as he answers the question: Who is Beelzebub?

"This clear disagreement between the crowds and the Pharisees may well be intended to draw out to his readers that here was a 'divided kingdom' of the kind Jesus would now speak about. It would therefore contain within itself the indication that Israel too was heading for destruction.

"*Beelzebub*: . . . Different manuscripts and versions present the full name differently. It is given as 'Beelzebub' in the Syriac and Vulgate versions - probably as taken from the name of the oracular god in [2 Kings 1:2-3](#), and as 'Beelzeboul' in most manuscripts. It is given as 'Beezeboul' in only a few manuscripts, but these include weighty ones (Aleph, B). The latter may, however, simply have dropped the 'l' because 'lz' was difficult to Greek speakers.

"The correct name may well thus be Beelzeboul. 'Zeboul' may represent 'zebel' (dung) or 'zebul' (dwelling). Thus, the name may mean 'lord of the house (or dwelling)' (see [Matthew 12:25](#) which seems to confirm this). Or it may be 'lord of dung' as an insulting name for Satan. The former would explain the stress on 'house' in Jesus' repudiation ([Matthew 12:25](#); [Matthew 12:28](#)). The name Zbl is also found in a Ugaritic text, linked with baal, where it may be a proper name or mean 'prince', and thus 'Prince Baal' (but why is it then changed to 'zeboul'?). [Matthew 12:25](#) thus suggests that Beelzeboul is seen as master over a household of demons (compare its meaning as 'Lord of the house').

"The thought [behind the Pharisees' denigration] was horrific. Jesus being compared to the Prince of Demons, and His household therefore a household of demons (which is later seen as absurd when we learn that His household in fact consists of those who do the will of His Father - [Matthew 12:50](#)). But it was clearly set policy for His opponents ([Matthew 9:34](#); [Matthew 10:25](#)). They had to have some explanation for the wonders that they saw in front of their eyes and could not explain away. As the narrative goes on, we learn that this is a synonym for Satan, as we would gather from him being the prince of the demons." [Public domain. Pett, Peter. "Pett's Commentary on the Bible". <https://www.studylight.org/commentaries/eng/pet/matthew-12.html>. Retrieved: 2026-08-16.]

Lesson 22: Matthew 12:9-30

Day 5

 Please pray for holy guidance and insight before you begin today's study.

²⁵ Jesus knew their thoughts and said to them, "Every kingdom divided against itself will be ruined, and every city or household divided against itself will not stand. ²⁶ If Satan drives out Satan, he is divided against himself. How then can his kingdom stand?

Q28. *Jesus knew their thoughts*: What does this phrase reveal about Jesus?

 **Definition: omniscient** om•nis•cient (ɒmˈnɪʃ ənt)

adj.

1. having complete or unlimited knowledge, awareness, or understanding.

n.

2. an omniscient being.

3. the Omniscient, God.

[Random House Kernerman Webster's College Dictionary, © 2010 K Dictionaries Ltd. Copyright 2005, 1997, 1991 by Random House, Inc. All rights reserved. <https://www.thefreedictionary.com/omniscient>. Retrieved: 2026-08-18.]

Q29. *Jesus knew their thoughts*: When He walked on this earth, did Jesus have the same creative power, unimaginable wisdom, and omniscient insights that He had in Heaven?

Yes? Maybe? No? (Why did you circle that answer?)

Philippians 2:5-11 [New Living Translation (NLT)]

⁵ You must have the same attitude that Christ Jesus had.

⁶ Though he was God, he did not think of equality with God as something to cling to. ⁷ Instead, he gave up his divine privileges; he took the humble position of a slave and was born as a human being. When he appeared in human form, ⁸ he humbled himself in obedience to God and died a criminal's death on a cross.

Mark 13:32 [English Standard Version (ESV)]

"But concerning that day or that hour, no one knows, not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father.

John 5:19 [NIV-1984]

Jesus gave them this answer: "I tell you the truth, the Son can do nothing by himself; he can do only what he sees his Father doing, because whatever the Father does the Son also does.

John 14:30-31 [International Children's Bible (ICB)]

³⁰ I will not talk with you much longer. The ruler of this world is coming. He has no power over me.

³¹ But the world must know that I love the Father. So, I do exactly what the Father told me to do.

Revelation 1:1-2 [International Children's Bible (ICB)]

¹ This is the revelation [footnote: revelation: a making known of truth that has been hidden] of Jesus Christ. God gave this

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revelation to Jesus, to show his servants what must soon happen. And Jesus sent his angel to show it to his servant John. ² John has told everything that he has seen. It is the truth that Jesus Christ told him; it is the message from God.

 This question “did Jesus have the same creative power, unimaginable wisdom, and omniscient insights that He had in Heaven?” is a perplexing one and Scripture does not explicitly answer it.

It appears that Jesus gave up many of His Heavenly attributes when He was born into this world (see [Philippians 2:7](#) ↑). In [Luke 2:52](#), we read “*And Jesus kept increasing in wisdom and stature, and in favor with God and people.*” The Luke passage suggests that Jesus was not omniscient as a human boy – He had to learn as He grew; yet, while He was God, He was fully human.

Scripture does suggest that God gave Jesus words to say and the implication is that God directly guided Jesus throughout His ministry. Additionally, [Revelation 1:1](#) (↑) clearly states that the ever-obedient Jesus received the revelation from His Father and passed it on via an angel to the Apostle John.

 The following verses are reproduced for your convenience.

²⁴ *But when the Pharisees heard this, they said, "It is only by Beelzebub, the prince of demons, that this fellow drives out demons."*

²⁵ *Jesus knew their thoughts and said to them, "Every kingdom divided against itself will be ruined, and every city or household divided against itself will not stand. ²⁶ If Satan drives out Satan, he is divided against himself. How then can his kingdom stand?"*

Q30. ***Every kingdom divided against itself will be ruined:*** Generally, what is the result of a divided kingdom (country)? (Hint: what did the U.S.A. experience under President Abraham Lincoln between 1861-1865?)

 C L W R

Q31. ***Every city or household divided against itself will not stand:*** We all know of someone who has experienced a failed marriage (“household”). What is the result of a failed marriage?

T H E R E S U L T I S D V C E . T H E

 M A R G U N N

I S D S R E D .

Q32. (Verse 24) ***It is only by Beelzebub, the prince of demons, that this fellow drives out demons:*** What are the Pharisees attempting to do with their accusation?

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²⁷ And if I drive out demons by Beelzebub, by whom do your people drive them out? So then, they will be your judges.

Q33. What is an exorcism?



Definition: exorcism

A ritual performed to expel an evil spirit.

[Dictionary of Unfamiliar Words by Diagram Group Copyright © 2008 by Diagram Visual Information Limited. <https://www.thefreedictionary.com/exorcism>. Retrieved: 2026-08-22.]

Q34. **If I drive out demons by Beelzebub, by whom do your people drive them out:** ① Do the Pharisees “drive . . . out [demons]”? ② Did the Pharisees deny that they, too, perform exorcisms?

① Do the Pharisees “drive . . . out [demons]”? Yes? Maybe? No? (Thoughts?)

② Did the Pharisees deny performing exorcisms? Yes? Maybe? No? (Thoughts?)

Q35. **So then, they will be your judges:** ① Who is the “*they*” that will judge the Pharisees? ② How do their actions judge (or condemn) the Pharisees’ accusation?

① Who is “they”?

② How do their actions judge?

Matthew 12:27 [New Living Translation (NLT)]

[Sometimes a different version/translation helps us to better understand a passage.]

And if I am empowered by Satan, what about your own exorcists? They cast out demons, too, so they will condemn you for what you have said.

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Day 6

 Please pray for holy guidance and insight before you begin today's study.

²⁸ But if I drive out demons by the Spirit of God, then the kingdom of God has come upon you.

Q36. (Verse 28) Jesus makes a profound declaration. What is it?

 The commentators at GotQuestionsMinistries provide these thoughts:
“Jesus has shown that the Pharisees' slander — that He casts out demons by Satan's power — is ridiculous ([Matthew 12:22–24](#)). First, it would mean Satan is fighting a battle against himself. Second, it would call into question by whose power the Pharisees attempted their own exorcisms ([Matthew 12:25–27](#)).
“Now Jesus adds that the Pharisees are missing the most important point of all. If He is truly casting out demons by the power of God's Holy Spirit, then the kingdom of God has come, at last. Of course, this is exactly the conclusion the Pharisees are trying to avoid. The problem here is not merely that they "do not" believe. It's that they 'do not want to' believe that Jesus is the Messiah.
“Christ leaves His critics no room to escape the most rational conclusion before them. He does indeed cast out demons by the Spirit of God. The Jews widely believed that God's Spirit had left Israel after the prophets had died out hundreds of years earlier. If the Spirit was back and working through Jesus, as it obviously was, the time of the Messiah has come. More than that, the King has come, and the kingdom of God has been initiated, even if it was not fully established.
“Jesus' ability to so quickly and easily cast out demons was evidence that He was the Messiah and King. Those who made a conscious effort to resist those truths were in a dire spiritual condition.” [© Copyright 2002-2026 Got Questions Ministries. All rights reserved. <https://www.bibleref.com/Matthew/12/Matthew-12-28.html>. Retrieved: 2026-08-23.]

²⁹ "Or again, how can anyone enter a strong man's house and carry off his possessions unless he first ties up the strong man? Then he can rob his house.

 The student may want to read through the questions associated with this verse before beginning to answer the questions.

Q37. Thinking back to “The Fall of Mankind” as retold in [Genesis 3:1-13](#) and then throughout the Old Testament, were many limitations placed on Satan and his actions in this world? Or did he pretty much have ‘free rein’? (Other than God’s judgment: “*You will crawl on your belly, groveling in the dust as long as you live.*” [Genesis 3:14^b](#))

Many limitations? Free rein? (Thoughts?)

Lesson 22: Matthew 12:9-30

Q38. Thinking back to “The Temptation of Jesus” that we studied in [Matthew 4:1-11](#), did there appear to be any restrictions on Satan and what he showed the Lord Jesus?

Yes? Maybe? No? (Thoughts?)

Q39. Thinking back to “The Temptation of Jesus” that we studied in [Matthew 4:1-11](#), what words did Jesus command before He reminded Satan “*You shall worship the Lord your God and him only shall you serve.*”?

Yes? Maybe? No? (Thoughts?)

Matthew 4:10-11 [English Standard Version (ESV)]

¹⁰ Then Jesus said to him, “Be gone, Satan! For it is written, “ ‘You shall worship the Lord your God and him only shall you serve.’ ”

¹¹ Then the devil left him, and behold, angels came and were ministering to him.

Q40. In “The Temptation of Jesus” that we studied in [Matthew 4:1-11](#), is it possible that with Jesus’s words “*Be gone, Satan!*” the Creator suddenly bound Satan with severe restrictions?

Severe? Moderate? No change? (Thoughts?)

Q41. Thinking back to your answer to the previous question, if you answered “Severe” or “Moderate”, is it possible that with the restrictions Jesus placed on Satan those restrictions remain in place today?

Yes? Maybe? No? (Thoughts?)

Q42. How can anyone enter a strong man's house and carry off his possessions unless he first ties up the strong man? Then he can rob his house: ① Who is the “strong man”? ② What does the “house” represent? ③ What might “possessions” represent? ④ Who is “he”?

① Who is the “strong man”?

② What does the “house” represent?

③ What might “possessions” represent?

④ Who is “he”?

 The commentator Peter Pett writes:

“The thought now moves to a household. Jesus is not only invading the kingdom of the strong man, he is entering his very palace. Satan is routed. Let them consider what that means about Him. The only one who can enter a strong man’s house and spoil his goods in this way, is One Who is stronger than he, One Who can bind him. Then He will be able to ‘despoil’ his house. Thus Jesus is by this claiming to be greater than Satan (contrast [Jude 1:9](#)). The binding of the strong man is depicted vividly in [Revelation 20:2-3](#) where it is to take place during the ‘thousand years’ (God’s perfect but immeasurable length of time) which comes before the final judgment. . . .

Lesson 22: Matthew 12:9-30

“By this Jesus is emphasising that He is stronger than Satan (which even Michael the Archangel dared not do - [Jude 1:9](#)) and that He is now here to bind the strong man. The despoiling of his house speaks of all those whom Jesus is delivering from His power ([Acts 26:18](#)), and especially demon-possessed people. Being delivered from his household, they will enter the household of the Kingly Rule of God ([Matthew 12:49-50](#)), for if they do not their last state may be worse than their first ([Matthew 12:45](#)).

“This ‘binding of Satan’ prevents him from interfering in Jesus’ deliverance of all who believe in Him. But it does not prevent many of his other activities against God’s people ([Ephesians 6:10-18](#)). It does, however, mean that they are strictly controlled. He is not, for example, allowed to tempt God’s people beyond what they can cope with ([1 Corinthians 10:13](#)).” [Public domain. Pett, Peter. “Pett’s Commentary on the Bible”. <https://www.studylight.org/commentaries/eng/pet/matthew-12.html>. Retrieved: 2026-08-23.]

³⁰ “He who is not with me is against me, and he who does not gather with me scatters.

Q43. ***He who is not with me is against me:*** Why does Jesus consider a nonbeliever (“*He who is not with me*”) to be “*against*” Him?

Q44. He who does not gather with me scatters: Who “scatters”?

Q45. He who does not gather with me scatters: Who “gathers”?

Q46. ***He who does not gather with me scatters:*** Jesus is actively “*gathering*”. The phrase “*gathers with me*” seems to mean the person is also actively “*gathering*”. ① What does “*gathering*” mean in this context? ② And what is the person actively “*gathering*”?

① What does “gathering” mean?

② What are they actively “gathering”?

Q47. ***He who does not gather with me scatters:*** Is there room for ‘fence-sitters’? Or for the ‘professed’ Believer whose belief consists of Sunday church attendance? Or for the person who says, “I’ve been busy. I’ll start something tomorrow.”? Thoughts?

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