

Dwelling in the Word

Prayerfully read Matt 12 and ask: 1) What words, phrases, or images stood out to you? 2) What does this say about what God desires to accomplish in you? 3) How could you respond to what God says in this passage?

Beginning the Conversation

1. Think about people you have met that resist Jesus and his Kingdom. What are some of their reasons for doing so?
2. Think about a time when someone ‘bore’ fruit that showed who they really were. Care to elaborate on the story or circumstance?

Digging Deeper *(pick some of the following questions to discuss as a group)*

1. Chris shared four resistances to Jesus in this chapter. Summarize them in your own words.
 - a. Resistance of suspicion - Jesus and his disciples ‘working’ on the Sabbath
 - b. Resistance of accusation - Jesus accused of being of Beelzebul
 - c. Resistance of delaying - Jesus asked for a sign
 - d. Resistance of selective discipleship - Jesus defining who his family is
2. In each of these stories, Jesus actively works to establish the authority he has to address this resistance and to prove who he is. How does he do that?
3. Why do you feel Jesus had a need to establish his authority?
4. Matthew 12 addresses the stories of false accusation and his family differently than Mark. Read Mark 3:20-34. How are the stories the same? How are the stories different? Why do you think these differences exist?
5. Jesus’ teaching about trees and their fruit (12:33–37) echoes other parts of Scripture that use the same imagery (e.g., Psalm 1; Jeremiah 17:5–10; Matthew 7:15–20; Galatians 5:22–23). Read one or two of those passages together. What similarities do you notice? How do these passages deepen your understanding of what Jesus means by “good fruit” and “bad fruit”?

Living it Out

1. What growing fruit in your life is the Spirit inviting you to pay attention to today?
2. Where has resistance grown in your life?
3. Where is Jesus inviting you to let Him be Lord, not just of your beliefs, but of your schedule, your heart, your relationships, your words?

at down. His disciples came to him, 2 and he began to teach them. He said: 3 "Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. 4 Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted. 5 Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth. 6 Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled. 7 Blessed are the merciful, for they will be shown mercy. 8 Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God. 9 Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God. 10 Blessed are those who are persecuted because of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. 11 "Whoever persecutes you and insults you and despises you and hurls insults against your name because of the Son of Man, rejoice and be glad, for your reward will be great in heaven. For in this way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

Resistance to the Kingdom (12:1-50)



Discourse 3
Mystery of the Kingdom (11-13)

November 23, 2025
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Greenfield Community Church

Resistances to the Kingdom

Suspicion	12:1-14
Accusation	12:22-30
Demands	12:38-42
Selective Discipleship	12:46-50

Resistance: Suspicion (12:1-14)

Setting: Sabbath controversies

What's the Big Deal?

39 Categories of Forbidden Work

- Sowing
- Plowing
- Reaping
- Threshing
- Grinding
- Baking
- Shearing Wool
- Tying/untangling knots
- Writing/erasing
- Carrying a burden
- Lighting/extinguishing a fire

Resistance: Suspicion (12:1-14)

Setting: Sabbath controversies

What's the Big Deal?

Resistance: Accusation (12:22-30, 36)

Setting: Jesus healing a demon possessed man

What's the Big Deal?

A

Resistance: Delays (12:38-42)

Setting: Asking for a sign

What's the Big Deal?

Resistance: Tension (12:46-50)

Selective Discipleship

Setting: Ins and outs of Jesus' family

What's the Big Deal?



Invitation

What fruit is the Spirit inviting you to pay attention to today?

Where has resistance grown in your life?

Where is Jesus inviting you to let Him be Lord?