

COMMENTARY

Chapter 11:

- vs. 1-13 Even though Jesus was the Son of God and perfect in every way He still spent time in prayer. This sample prayer shows how God's Kingdom must be first in our lives and our need to be entirely dependent on Him for our provisions and salvation.
- In the east, much travel was done during the evening hours and late into the night because the temperature would be so much cooler. Ones family would be gathered together in a single room each with their sleeping area on the floor. To walk through the room, in darkness, and not waking or stepping on anyone would be a difficult task thus the man's hesitancy. The message here is that God will answer prayer and there are times when we need to be persistent.
- vs. 14-28 Beelzebub was a heathen god who was considered the prince (ruler) of demons. Notice the Jews familiarity with the false gods and their acceptance of their power. Jesus proclaims His superiority over Satan and the demons. He also shows the need for individuals to replace the evil in their lives with goodness, lest the evil return to take occupancy.
- vs. 29-32 The story of Jonah can be found in the Old Testament book by the same name. Just as Jonah was in the fish's belly for 3 days and nights so Jesus would be in the belly of the earth. His resurrection would be a sign to the people that He was from God. The Queen of the South recognized a greater wisdom and went to learn more of it (see I Kings 11) whereas the people then failed to recognize the wisdom of Jesus and to heed His teachings.
- vs. 33-36 Light is referred to as righteousness and darkness is wickedness. Jesus is saying that we need to be full of goodness and it should show forth in our lives. Goodness comes only through Jesus, who is the true Light of the World.
- vs. 37-54 The Pharisees held to three observances: 1. washings, 2. tithing, and 3. dealing closely with other Pharisees only. They felt the end of this would be righteousness. Jesus pronounces that these traditions of theirs were not sufficient. Righteousness had to come from within and be shown in one's attitude toward God and others.
- The expert in the law was also offended because Jesus was attacking their system of traditions. Jesus goes on to state that the traditions are so picky that no individual could fulfill them, and in this sense they were keeping others from the truth.

COMMENTARY

Chapter 12:

- vs. 1-12 Jesus warns those following Him to watch out for the false teaching of the Pharisees. Their religion is merely outward and not within as God desires. One day a persons hypocrisy will be made known because all that they have done will be revealed.
Jesus therefore warns His disciples not to be concerned about men and their rejection but to fear God and concern oneself with pleasing Him; for when judgment comes, God is the one who will be judging. The way to please God is to accept Jesus and to serve Him.
- vs. 13-21 Jesus refuses to become a judge between people on irrelevant matters. He does use this opportunity to show how meaningless possessions are in regard to eternity.
- vs. 22-34 Jesus continues in the same thought as He shows the folly of spending time on worry. God is more than capable to provide for your needs and there is nothing you can do about it anyway. Rather we should concern ourselves with the Kingdom and putting our time and energy into it. That is the only worthwhile cause for which to toil on this earth. ed
- vs. 35-48 The master-slave relationship is easily understood today. Peter's question shows a misconception on his part and many believers today. He wanted Jesus to clarify that not all of them were servants but that some would be coming with the groom and also be waited on by the servants. Simply put, Peter wanted Jesus to state that the 12 were to be served and exalted by the others. Jesus, however, makes it clear that all are servants and all are to strive to be found faithful. Those found faithful will receive the reward, whereas those who had chosen to serve Christ and were unfaithful will fail to inherit the kingdom.
- vs. 49-53 Jesus explains that His followers will face persecution. Some of the fiercest persecution will come from one's own family. Jesus' baptism that He refers to is the episode of the cross that He had yet to face. Just as He would suffer, so too, would His followers.
- vs. 54-59 Jesus uses examples of ways that they would predict the weather in that region, as an illustration of fortelling the future. In the physical realm the crowd could do well but in the spiritual they had no understanding of what was taking place then. He also talks concerning making things right before it's too late, using once again an every day illustration. The meaning was to make things right with God before the judgment.

STUDY GUIDE

Chapter 11:

1. After praying, one of Jesus' disciples asked Jesus to teach them to pray. What was Jesus' response?
2. What will happen for the person who asks, knocks, or seeks?
3. What does Jesus say we know how to give, even though we are evil and what will our Heavenly Father give much more?
4. What happened to the mute ~~when~~ Jesus cast out the demon and how did the people respond?
5. Who did Jesus say he would allow to be judges of the ones who accused him of sending out demons by the power of Beelzebub?
6. Who did Jesus say was blessed?
7. What did Jesus say the wicked generation asked for and who would stand in judgment against them?
8. How extensively did the Pharisees tithe and what did Jesus say they had neglected?
9. Why did Jesus say woe to the experts in the law?

BONUS:

1. Where else can you find the Lord's Prayer in Scripture and how does it differ?
2. What does Jesus teach about prayer in this chapter?
3. What does Jesus teach about His relationship with Satan in the chapter?
4. What is the sign of Jonah that Jesus refers to? (look to parrallell accounts)
5. How does Jesus' pronouncement of woes on the Pharisees and experts in the law affect us today?

STUDY GUIDE

Chapter 12:

1. Who are we to fear and not to fear and why?
2. Why should Christians not concern themselves with defending their position?
3. What induced the rich man to build bigger barns and what seemed to be his philosophy of life?
4. How did God respond to the rich mans independance?
5. Why does the Christian have no need to worry?
6. Where are peoples hearts?
7. Why should servants always be ready?
8. What happens to the servant who is not serving faithfully when his master returns?
9. What did Jesus bring to the earth?
10. Why should one try to be reconciled to their adversary?

BONUS:

1. How does the rich mans attitude manifest itself today?
2. What are concerns that we worry about today and what evidence is there that God will take care of these areas of concern?
3. Explain ways that a Christian may be found faithful or unfaithful when Jesus returns.
4. Does ones relationship with the Master affect other relationships today? If so, how?