

## NOTE-TAKING OUTLINE

## A Vacant House, and a True Family

Matthew 12:43-50 · HCSB

## TWO THINGS TO LISTEN FOR

1. Anything we do in our own strength, and without God, will eventually **fail**.
2. God values His relationship with His **spiritual family** over physical family alone.

## INTRODUCTION · Keeping things in perspective

- Through chapter 12, Jesus is debating and sometimes \_\_\_\_\_ the Pharisees for their unbelief.
- They keep accusing Him of breaking the Law. His aim: "I did not come to destroy but to \_\_\_\_\_." (*Matthew 5:17*)
- They had the knowledge and the training. They still missed \_\_\_\_\_ for who He is.
- A picture from real life: a sickness starting Saturday night. The reflex was to deny it — "I'm fine," "I'm just tired," "I don't have time to be sick" — and push through in \_\_\_\_\_ strength.
- The Pharisees had a similar confidence about their spiritual walk. Keep all \_\_\_\_\_ laws in their entirety, and condemnation will not come.
- That is a \_\_\_\_\_-based faith. It rests completely on the strength and ability of the person to meet God's standard.

## What God says about meeting His standard on our own

- "For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God." *Romans 3:23*
- "We are all as an unclean thing, and all our righteousnesses are as filthy rags." *Isaiah 64:6*
- Even a righteous act is still tainted. The reason is simple: \_\_\_\_\_. From Genesis 3 on, everything we do carries it.
- "Indeed, I was guilty when I was born; I was sinful when my mother conceived me." *Psalms 51:5*
- The Pharisees knew these Old Testament passages. Self-righteousness kept them from seeing they could not keep the standard \_\_\_\_\_.
- So Jesus tells a story simple enough for everyone listening to see the error.

Notes

## POINT 1 · An empty house cannot stay empty

Matthew 12:43-45

## Verse 43 — the unclean spirit goes out

*"When an unclean spirit comes out of a man, it roams through waterless places looking for rest but doesn't find any."*

Matthew 12:43

- "Unclean spirit" means \_\_\_\_\_. Demon possession was common enough to use as a picture people already knew.
- Earlier examples: healings at Peter's house in Capernaum (*Matthew 8:16*), and Legion and the pigs (*Matthew 8:28-34*).
- The spirit leaves willingly or by force. Here, the how is \_\_\_\_\_. In the other stories, the how was the point.
- While it is out, it can do little more than wander, looking for another person to inhabit.
- "Waterless places" pictures an \_\_\_\_\_ place for the spirit. No water is a desert. This is a host desert.
- Because that place gives it nothing, the spirit goes back to what is \_\_\_\_\_.

## Verse 44 — "my house," vacant, swept, and put in order

*"Then it says, 'I'll go back to my house that I came from.' And returning, finds the house vacant, swept, and put in order."*

Matthew 12:44

- It is easy to read a swept house as a life that is finally \_\_\_\_\_. That is not the whole truth.
- The spirit still calls the person "\_\_\_\_\_." It is taking ownership.
- An unclean spirit can claim that only if the person has not received the free gift of \_\_\_\_\_.
- The proof in the verse: the house is \_\_\_\_\_. Free of any new occupant.
- Redeemed "from your empty way of life... with the precious blood of Christ." *1 Peter 1:18-19*

- “You were bought at a price. Therefore glorify God in your body.” *1 Corinthians 6:20*
- Trusting Jesus transfers ownership. The \_\_\_\_\_ is sent and dwells in you. If this man had believed, the returning spirit would have found the house already occupied.

Notes

### Verse 45 — seven more, and a worse ending

“Then off it goes and brings with it seven other spirits more evil than itself... that man’s last condition is worse than the first. That’s how it will also be with this evil generation.” *Matthew 12:45*

- It does not simply move back in. It finds \_\_\_\_\_ first — seven others, more \_\_\_\_\_ than itself.
- Nothing stronger has taken \_\_\_\_\_, so it expects free rein. The last condition is \_\_\_\_\_ than the first.
- Jesus sets the man beside “this evil \_\_\_\_\_.”
- Luke 17:11-19: ten lepers are cleansed. Only \_\_\_\_\_ returns. Jesus does not say faith healed him. “Your \_\_\_\_\_ has saved you.” A cleansed body is not a saved soul. *Luke 17:19*

### How this lands on an ordinary life

- The unclean spirit can also picture a sinful habit we cast \_\_\_\_\_.
- For a time the house stays swept — and \_\_\_\_\_. Then temptation returns, and the slavery is \_\_\_\_\_.
- That happens when we never turn to the One who can free us \_\_\_\_\_.
- The sickness, finished: manageable through Wednesday. Thursday, the couch. The turn was submitting: “I’m tapping out. Lord, \_\_\_\_\_.”
- The fever broke the next day. Without God we can do \_\_\_\_\_.

Notes

## POINT 2 • Who is My family?

*Matthew 12:46-50*

### Verses 46-47 — mother and brothers at the door

“He was still speaking to the crowds when suddenly His mother and brothers were standing outside wanting to speak to Him.” *Matthew 12:46*

- They interrupt the teaching. Scripture does not say what was so urgent.
- A fair reading from 12:14: the Pharisees have already plotted how they might \_\_\_\_\_ Him.
- Mary carried Him, searched for Him at twelve, and will stand at the cross. His brothers came with her. They \_\_\_\_\_ for Him. Love is not the question.

### Verse 48 — “Who is My mother, and who are My brothers?”

- Jesus knows who is outside. The question draws a line between \_\_\_\_\_ family and \_\_\_\_\_ family.
- At this point, not even His brothers \_\_\_\_\_ in Him. *John 7:5* They urge Him to show Himself in Judea, where people are trying to kill Him.
- After He ascends, they are with the disciples, united in prayer. *Acts 1:14*

### Verses 49-50 — a hand stretched toward the disciples

“Here are My mother and My brothers! For whoever does the will of My Father in heaven, that person is My brother and sister and mother.” *Matthew 12:49-50*

- His hand goes toward the \_\_\_\_\_, not toward the door.
- Whoever does the \_\_\_\_\_ of the Father is brother and sister and mother.
- He is not dismissing physical family. Spiritual family takes \_\_\_\_\_.
- This is why one believer calls another \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_.

Notes