

Matthew 12:38-50  
At home with Jesus  
5-14-2023  
Rivertree Church

- **Matthew 12:38-50 ESV**

- Three sections
  - Jesus is asked for a sign
  - Jesus teaches on unclean spirits
  - Jesus with his family
- **When they ask for a sign, they ask for something from above.**
- The idea of bargaining with God is something we have in common with the people of Jesus' Day.
- The sign of Jonah
- He is talking about His death and resurrection.
- Jesus is declaring
  - I am the greater prophet
  - I am the wiser king
  - I am the true priest

- **Hebrews 12:1-2 ESV**

- Israel is the empty house
- Religion leads to temporary peace but can't bring the change we need the most.
- "Christianity is utterly different than religion" -Tim Keller
- "Don't mistake Christianity for going to worship, praying, and giving to the poor. Don't mistake Christianity for that. You can do all that and be positioned on your way to destruction, a house on sand." -Tim Keller
- "Imagine yourself as a living house. God comes in to rebuild that house. At first, perhaps, you can understand what He is doing. He is getting the drains right and stopping the leaks in the roof and so on; you knew that those jobs needed doing, and so you're not surprised. But presently, He starts knocking the house about in a way that hurts abominably and does not seem to make any sense. What on earth is He up to? The explanation is that He is building quite a different house from the one you thought of - throwing out a new wing here, putting on an extra floor there, running up towers, making courtyards. You thought you were being made into a decent little cottage: but He is building a palace. He intends to come and live in it Himself."

-C. S Lewis

- Jesus is willing to do more than give you a sign from heaven. He is ready to give you his very self
- The story invites us to come inside, to sit down.
- John 10:10 ESV
- Ephesians 1:7-10 ESV

Grow Group questions:

- Have you tried bargaining with God? If you have why did you try bargaining with Him? What might your “deal making” reveal about your own heart?
- How is the sign Jesus offers in this passage a sufficient and sustainable sign? In what ways has Jesus’ death and resurrection sustained your own life? How is the sign Jesus offers better than what the Pharisees are asking for? How is the sign better than what we might ask for when we ask for our own signs from God?
- Read Hebrews 12:1-2. How can applying what these verses say help you experience God’s nearness in your own life? As your eyes are fixed on the cross of Christ, what about your own life might begin to change? When you’ve looked to other places than the cross for encouragement how have you been disappointed? If time permits, go to the gospels and read the accounts of the crucifixion.
- What is the best open house you’ve ever been to? What was great about it?
- What makes a house a “home?” Why is it dangerous to only take care of the outside yourself but not allow Jesus to shape the inside? How might Jesus want to shape your heart? Are you clean on the outside but empty on the inside? If so, share this with someone and ask for help.
- How is Christianity utterly different from any other sort of religion? Why is this important? Who in your life needs to know this? How could you share the goodness of the gospel with them?
- What does living the abundant life Jesus promises in John 10:10 look like? How do you know if you are experiencing the abundant life? How do you know when you are not?
- How can someone be “outside” the family of God but feel near to Jesus? What is dangerous about this? Have you ever had a time in your life this was true? What changed to bring you inside to Jesus’ family?
- If you haven’t repented and believed the gospel would you do so now? If you are unsure how to do this please ask someone in your grow group to help or contact the church.
- What would being at home with Jesus look like this next week in your life? In your family? In your vocation? How can your grow group help you with this?