

March 13–19
Matthew 11–12; Luke 11
“I Will Give You Rest”



John the Baptist

Matt 4:12

Now when Jesus had heard that John was cast into prison, he departed into Galilee;

JST Matt 4:11

And now Jesus knew that John was cast into prison, and he sent angels, and, behold, they came and ministered unto him.

John the Baptist

Matt 11:2-6

Does it sound like John's faith in Jesus was wavering?

Bruce R. McConkie

“Why did John send two of his disciples to Jesus to ask if he were the promised Messiah? Any inference that the Baptist was uncertain or doubtful in his own mind, as to the identity and mission of the Master, is totally unwarranted....

“John knew who Jesus was.... While in Herod's prison, angels sent by Jesus had ministered comfort and assurance to John.... This act of sending his disciples to Jesus was in effect a final great testimony on John's part that Jesus was the Lamb of God, for the Baptist knew that his disciples, seeing the Master personally and hearing his teachings, could not help but follow the greater light.” (Doctrinal New Testament Commentary, 1: 261)

John the Baptist

Matt 11:7-11

Why did Jesus consider John to be the greatest prophet?

Joseph Smith

“How is it that John was considered one of the greatest prophets? His miracles could not have constituted his greatness.

“First. He was entrusted with a divine mission of preparing the way before the face of the Lord. Whoever had such a trust committed to him before or since? No man.

“Secondly. He was entrusted with the important mission, and it was required at his hands, to baptize the Son of Man. Whoever had the honor of doing that? Whoever had so great a privilege and glory?....

“Thirdly. John, at that time, was the only legal administrator in the affairs of the kingdom there was then on the earth, and holding the keys of power....

“These three reasons constitute him the greatest prophet born of a woman.” (TPJS, pg. 275-276)

John the Baptist

Matt 11:12-14

John the Baptist

Matt 11:16-19

Why do you think that some or people find rationalizations for not believing Jesus and the prophets?

Jörg Klebingat

“The adversary and his followers have always sought to destroy the works of Christ and His prophets. The Savior’s commandments, if not ignored altogether, have been rationalized into meaninglessness by many in today’s world. Messengers of God who teach ‘inconvenient’ truths are often dismissed. Even the Savior Himself was called ‘a man gluttonous, and a winebibber,’ accused of disturbing public sentiment and being divisive. Weak and conniving souls ‘took counsel how they might entangle him in his talk’ (Matt 22:15), and His ‘sect’ of early Christians was ‘every where... spoken against’ (Acts 28:22).” (CR, April 2022)

John the Baptist

Matt 11:20-27

What does it take to understand and gain a testimony of the gospel of Christ?

Charles W. Penrose

“How can man know God without revelation from God? ‘Man by searching cannot find out God’ (Job 11:7).... Man cannot find out God, but God can manifest Himself to man. The only way that the Lord can be made manifest to man is by revelation. Jesus Christ thanked His Father, when he was praying, that God had ‘kept those things hid from the wise and prudent, and revealed them unto babes.’ ‘Even so, Father:’ said He, ‘for thus it seemed good in thy sight. And no man knoweth the Son, but the Father; neither knoweth any man the Father, save the Son, and he to whomsoever the Son will reveal him.’ That is the only way.” (JD, 24:203)

John the Baptist

Matt 11:28-30

What does it mean to “find rest unto your souls”?

Joseph F. Smith

"The ancient prophets speak of 'entering into God's rest'; what does it mean? To my mind, it means entering into the knowledge and love of God, having faith in His purposes and in His plans to such an extent that we know we are right, and that we are not hunting for something else; we are not disturbed by every wind of doctrine, or by the cunning and craftiness of men who lay in wait to deceive. We know of the doctrine, that it is of God.... The man who has reached that degree of faith in God that all doubt and fear have been cast from him, he has entered into 'God's rest'." (CR, Oct. 1909)

Jesus Confronts Pharisee and Sadducees

James E Talmage

"The Pharisee, in the estimation of his class, was distinctively set apart from the common people, to whom he considered himself as truly superior as the Jews regarded themselves in contrast with other nations....

"They made ostentatious display of a certain type of simplicity, plainness, and self-denial, in which external observances they asserted superiority over the luxury-loving Sadducees; they had grown arrogantly proud of their humility, but God knew their hearts." (Jesus The Christ, pg. 65, 465)

Jesus Confronts Pharisee and Sadducees

Bruce R. McConkie

“The Pharisees were a zealous, devoted sect who accepted both the law of Moses and the traditions of the elders. They were pious and puritannical in conduct, glorying in frequent fasts and public prayers. [They were] intensely patriotic and nationalistic....

“The Sadducees... were a sect composed of skeptical, worldly, wealthy people a selfish group finding their most powerful adherents among the chief priests. Though the Sadducees professed belief in the law, they rejected the traditions of the elders, and made no pretensions of piety or devout worship. The Pharisees were far more powerful and influential in Jewish political and religious life than were the Sadducees.” (DNTC, 1:117)

Jesus Confronts Pharisee and Sadducees

Matt 12:1-8

What do you think He means by His statement in verse 7, “I will have mercy, and not sacrifice”?

What does Jesus say to Pharisees to witness that He is the Christ?

Hosea 6:6

For I desired mercy, and not sacrifice; and the knowledge of God more than burnt offerings.

Bruce R. McConkie

“A quotation from Hosea 6:6. Mercy, love, charity, the attributes of godliness, take precedence over sacrifices and ritualistic performances. The religion of the Pharisees was one of form, ceremony, rules, and sacrifices, a religion which held them aloof from publicans and sinners; if, on the other hand, they had possessed the pure love of God, they would have viewed all men with mercy and compassion.” (DNTC, 1:182)

Jesus Confronts Pharisee and Sadducees

Matt 12:9-14

What do we learn in this example about what we should do to keep the sabbath day holy?

James E. Faust

"Jesus reaffirmed the importance of the Sabbath day devotion, but he introduced a new spirit into this part of worship. Rather than observe the endless technicalities and prohibitions concerning what should and should not be done on the Lord's day, he affirmed that it is lawful to do well on the Sabbath. He... introduced the principle that 'the sabbath was made for man, and not man for the sabbath' (Mark 2:27). He performed good deeds on the Sabbath, such as healing the man with palsy as well as the man with the paralyzed hand. So the divine mandate of Sabbath day observance in our day is now more of a manifestation of individual devotion and commitment rather than a requirement of civil law." (CR, Oct. 1991)

Jesus Confronts Pharisee and Sadducees

Matt 12:22-28

What should the Pharisee have learned about Jesus because He is able to command evil spirits and cast them out?

Bruce R. McConkie

"By casting out devils Jesus offered conclusive and irrefutable proof that he was the promised Messiah....

"Devils are not cast out except by the power of faith and the authority of the priesthood... Satan is not divided against himself anymore than angelic ministrants of the Lord are rebelling against each other. Hence, the fact that Jesus did in reality cast out devils, as was evident to the Pharisees and all the people, establishes that he operated in harmony with 'the Spirit of God,' and that 'the kingdom of God,' which is the true Church, had come forth again among men." (DNTC, 1:268)

Jesus Confronts Pharisee and Sadducees

Matt 12:34-37

How does the way we talk to and/or about other people justify or condemn us?

L. Lionel Kendrick

"We will be held accountable for all that we say. The Savior has warned 'that every idle word that men shall speak, they shall give account thereof in the day of judgment.' This means that no communication shall be without consequence. This includes the slight slips of the tongue, the caustic communications that canker the soul, and the vain, vulgar, and profane words which desecrate the name of Deity....

"One of the major ways that Satan uses to retard the development of righteous relationships is in the use of gossip, rumor, and slander on his communication network. Perhaps the more common un-Christlike communications are those of lying, blaming, criticizing, and anger....

"Christlike communications are expressed in tones of love rather than loudness. They are intended to be helpful rather than hurtful. They tend to bind us together rather than to drive us apart. They tend to build rather than to belittle." (CR, Oct. 1988)

Jesus Confronts Pharisee and Sadducees

Matt 12:38-42

After all the signs and wonders that the Pharisee had seen, why do you think that they still found excuses for not accepting Jesus as the Christ?

John H. Vandenberg

"The Savior miraculously fed the four thousand. Then he crossed the Sea of Galilee and came into the coasts of Magdala. There the materialistic, self-centered, and egotistical Pharisees and Sadducees came, tempting him to show them a sign from heaven.... 'An evil and adulterous generation seeketh after a sign' warned Jesus. Today we have some Pharisees and Sadducees in our society, cloaked in the disguise and the influence of 'professionalism,' urging youth not to believe unless such can be measured in terms of materialistic values. In this mill of life we should heed the counsel that Jesus gave to his disciples: 'Take heed and beware of the leaven of the Pharisees and of the Sadducees' (Matt 16:6)." (CR, April 1965)

Jesus Confronts Pharisee and Sadducees

Luke 11:42-47,52-54

What does Jesus teach us about those who lead people from the truth for their own benefit?

How did the scribes and Pharisees react when their works were brought to light?

Dallin H. Oaks

“Gospel truths have been corrupted and gospel ordinances have been lost when left to the interpretation and sponsorship of scholars who lack the authority and reject the revelations of God.

“That is what the Savior told his professional critics, as recorded in the eleventh chapter of Luke. He was confronted by a group who had hypocritically built monuments to the prophets their predecessors had murdered, while personally rejecting the living prophets God was sending them. In what I understand to be a condemnation of their rejection of revelation, the Savior pronounced woe upon these worldly professionals: ‘For ye have taken away the key of knowledge: ye entered not in yourselves, and them that were entering in ye hindered.’”
(CR, April 1989)

Neal A. Maxwell

“Some lie in wait in our day, as during the ministry of Jesus, seeking to ‘provoke him to speak of many things,’ seeking to ‘catch something out of his mouth that they might accuse him.’ The Pharisees actually ‘took counsel how they might entangle him in his talk’ (Matt 22:15).” (CR, Oct. 1984)

Next Week:

March 20–26

Matthew 13; Luke 8; 13

“Who Hath Ears to Hear, Let Him Hear”

