

Matthew: Something Greater Than

Discussion Guide for November 15th and 16th, 2025

Summary

In Matthew 12:33–45, Jesus confronts the religious leaders who have rejected Him and exposing the connection between their words and their hearts. When they demand a miraculous sign to prove His authority, Jesus declares that no sign will be given except “the sign of Jonah”—a prophetic foreshadowing of His death and resurrection. Then He boldly proclaims that “something greater than Jonah” and “something greater than Solomon” is here—referring to Himself.

Through this encounter, Jesus reveals that He is greater than every prophet, king, and pursuit. While the religious leaders were focused on rule-keeping and outward appearances, Jesus calls us to true transformation—a heart filled with Him, not just swept clean by good behavior. Every human heart has a God-shaped emptiness that only Christ can fill. When we recognize His greatness and invite Him in, He becomes our ultimate satisfaction and joy.

Intro Prayer

Lord Jesus, You are greater than all things—greater than our fears, our failures, and the empty pursuits of this world. Open our hearts today to see You clearly and to treasure You above all else. Help us to listen to Your Word and to speak words that bring life and honor to You. Amen.

Ice Breaker

What’s something you once thought would finally make you happy or fulfilled—but didn’t? How did that realization change your perspective?

Key Verses

1. Matthew 12:36-37
2. Matthew 12:41-42

Discussion Questions

1. Jesus says our words reveal what’s in our hearts. What do your words—spoken or typed—reveal about your spiritual condition?
2. Why did Jesus refuse to give the Pharisees another “sign”? What does that tell us about faith and the danger of spiritual blindness?
3. How was Jesus greater than Jonah? What does this teach us about God’s mercy?
4. The Queen of Sheba traveled far to hear Solomon’s wisdom. Why do so many today ignore the wisdom of Jesus, even though it’s freely available?
5. Jesus’ parable of the “empty house” warns against cleaning up our lives without inviting Him in. Why is moral improvement without Christ spiritually dangerous?
6. What area(s) of your life most competes with Jesus for your heart’s attention? How can you intentionally remind yourself this week that He is greater than those things?

Life Application

This week, when you feel the pull toward something you think will make you feel complete—success, comfort, attention, or pleasure—pause and say aloud:

"Jesus, You are greater than this."

Then ask Him to fill that empty space with His peace, presence, and purpose.

Key Takeaways

1. Jesus' greatness isn't about ego—it's truth. He alone satisfies the human soul.
2. Words reveal worship. What we say shows who rules our hearts.
3. Moral behavior without Jesus leaves us empty—only His presence fills the soul.
4. Jesus + nothing = everything. If we have Him, we have all we need.

Ending Prayer

Lord Jesus, You are greater than Jonah, greater than Solomon, and greater than everything that competes for our hearts. Forgive us for chasing after what cannot satisfy. Fill every empty place in our souls with Your Spirit. Teach us to speak words of life and to live with our eyes fixed on You.

In Your mighty name we pray, amen.