

Matthew: Is Not With Me

Discussion Guide for Matthew 12:15-32 on Nov. 1st and 2nd, 2025

Summary

In Matthew 12, Jesus confronts the growing opposition of the Pharisees and reveals a defining truth: there is no neutral ground when it comes to Him. The religious leaders witness His miracles but attribute them to the power of Satan instead of the Spirit of God. Jesus responds, exposing their flawed logic and declaring, "Whoever is not with me is against me."

Through Isaiah's prophecy, Matthew shows that Jesus is the promised Messiah—humble, gentle, and inclusive of all people. Yet the religious leaders reject Him because He doesn't match their expectations. Their unbelief leads to a sobering warning about blasphemy against the Holy Spirit—the hardened refusal to acknowledge Jesus as the Son of God.

Jesus makes it clear—our response to Him defines our eternity. To follow Him is to live under His gentle rule; to reject Him is to stand opposed to God Himself.

Intro Prayer

Lord Jesus, we thank You for showing us what true strength looks like—humble, gentle, and full of truth. As we open Your Word, reveal any areas of our hearts where we've resisted You or tried to stay neutral. Make us people fully devoted to You and anchored in Your Word. Amen.

Ice Breaker

Think of a rivalry you're passionate about—sports teams, brands, schools, etc. How does your loyalty affect the way you see "the other side"? How might this mirror how people approach faith and allegiance to Jesus?

Key Verses

1. Matthew 12:30
2. Matthew 12:31-32

Questions

1. The Pharisees saw Jesus perform miracles but still rejected Him. What prevents people today from recognizing Jesus' authority, even when evidence of His work is clear?
2. Jesus fulfills Isaiah's prophecy as the humble and gentle servant. Why do people often expect God to show power through force instead of gentleness?
3. What are some ways we might unintentionally create a "God in our image"—a God who agrees with our opinions and dislikes what we dislike?
4. Jesus says there's no middle ground—either we're with Him or against Him. What does a "neutral" Christian life look like, and why is it dangerous?
5. How do you know your allegiance is fully with Jesus? What does that look like in your daily life, relationships, and decisions?

6. When have you been challenged to take a stand for Jesus rather than stay silent or neutral? What was the result?

Life Application

Ask yourself this week: "Where am I still trying to stay neutral with Jesus?"

Key Takeaways

1. There is no neutral ground—everyone must choose allegiance to or against Jesus.
2. We often project our own image onto God; true faith is shaped by His Word, not our preferences.
3. Rejecting the Spirit's testimony about Jesus ultimately leads to separation from God.
4. Our calling is not only to believe but to gather with Jesus—to bring others into His kingdom.

Ending Prayer

Father, thank You for sending Jesus, the gentle and humble King who served and saved us. Forgive us for the times we've tried to stay neutral or shape You into our image. Strengthen our hearts to stand boldly for You and to gather others into Your kingdom. May our lives declare, "As for me and my house, we will serve the Lord." In Jesus' name, amen.