

THE PARABLES—Part 9

Matthew 12:38-45

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1. 12:38 By the time the scribes and Pharisees asked Jesus to show them a special sign, their opposition had already turned to hatred.
2. 12:38 This was not an innocent request stemming from curiosity; it was a set-up, an official demand for Jesus to prove Himself.
3. 12:39 The spiritual leaders of the nation had become so deeply enmeshed in superficial, self-righteous legalism that they not only missed the work of God in front of their very eyes, but they also sought to prevent others from seeing Him as well.
4. 12:39 The people were spiritually adulterous, pursuing a system of man-made rules and rebelling against God by rejecting Jesus.
5. 12:39 God will not bend Himself to satisfy the impulses of people who have no relationship to Him.
6. 12:39 God has given all the evidence necessary for belief. The issue is not evidence; it is hardness of hearts.
7. 12:40 Two kinds of Old Testament prophecy regarding the future arrival of the Christ:
 - Verbally predictive—specific details and predictions are given (ex: the Christ would be born of a virgin [Isaiah 7:14], would be a descendant of David [Jeremiah 23:5], would be born in Bethlehem [Micah 5:2])
 - Typical predictive—a person or event foreshadowed the person of Christ (ex: Daniel [dedication], Joseph [wrongly held], Moses [deliverer])
8. 12:40 In declaring Jonah's experience a type of His own burial and resurrection, Jesus verified the authenticity of Jonah's account.
9. 12:40 Jesus' resurrection after three days was not the sign the people expected, but it would be infinitely more powerful, more astonishing, more magnificent than anything anyone had ever seen.
10. 12:41 The wicked people of Ninevah had better spiritual insight than the Pharisees...a scathing rebuke!

SONG TITLES

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