

JESUS IS GREATER

Matthew 12

Introduction

1 Out of a context of confrontations

- a Charge with breaking Sabbath rules, Jesus shows he is greater ... (vv 1-14)
- b Charge with scheming with Satan, Jesus shows he is greater ... (vv 22-32)
- c Challenge to produce miracle on demand, Jesus shows he is greater ... (vv 38-45)

2 No one can remain undecided about Jesus (vv 30, 33-37, 46-50)

3 Jesus's modus operandi in ministry (vv 15-21)

Reflections

Any challenge mounted against Jesus is an attack against his authority in some form.

No one can remain indecisive/agnostic against Jesus for long. Jesus does not allow option.

Like Jesus, our ministry should not be primarily confrontational or to draw publicity. Instead, we focus on people in need who need him.

Outline of Matthew (provisional)

Introduction

Matthew 1-2: The promised Messiah has arrived, Jesus Christ

Narrative (from Judea to Galilee, see 3:1 & 4:23)

Matthew 3-4: The beginning of Messiah's ministry

1st block of teaching

Matthew 5-7: The kingdom of the Messiah: its character

Transition – Jesus's authority, 7:28-29

Narrative (Galilee, see 8:5, 28, 9:1, 35)

Matthew 8-9: Jesus's public ministry grew under Jesus's authority

2nd block of teaching

Matthew 10: The kingdom of the Messiah: its mission and messengers

Transition – Jesus's expanding ministry, 11:1

Narrative (Galilee, see 11:21, 23)

Matthew 11-12, First challenges to Jesus and his ministry

3^d block of teaching

Matthew 13: The kingdom of the Messiah: its reach/expansion (who's in, who's out)

Transition – More challenges coming, 13:53

Narrative (further north, see 14:34, 15:21, 29, 16:13, 17:22, 24)

Matthew 14-17: Further challenges to Jesus and his ministry; Jesus heading to his death

4th block of teaching

Matthew 18: The kingdom of the Messiah: living with one another

Transition – Jesus's ministry in Judea, 19:1-2

Narrative (in Judea & Jerusalem, see 19:1, 21:1, 10)

Matthew 19-23: Jesus heading closer to his death; final challenges to Jesus and his ministry

5th block of teaching

Matthew 24-25: The kingdom of the Messiah: waiting and getting ready for the end times

Transition – Nearness of Jesus's death

Narrative (from Jerusalem to Galilee, see 26:6, 28:16)

Matthew 26-28: The passion and resurrection of Jesus

6th teaching (?)

By Jesus' disciples and by us (Matt 28:18-20)