

## Day 1

 Please pray for holy guidance and insight before you begin today's study.

### Jesus Warns Unbelievers

<sup>20</sup>Then Jesus began to denounce the cities in which most of his miracles had been performed, because they did not repent.

Q1. **Because they did not repent:** How do you define “repent”?

 **Definition:** re·pent (rĭ-pĕnt') v. re·pent·ed, re·pent·ing, re·pents  
v.intr.

1. To feel remorse, contrition, or self-reproach for what one has done or failed to do; be contrite: "[He] liked to visit prisoners and admonish them to repent of their ways" (Adam Hochschild).

2. To feel such regret for past conduct as to change one's mind regarding it: repented of intemperate behavior. You'd better accept their offer before they repent.

3. To become a more moral or religious person as a result of remorse or contrition for one's sins.

v.tr.

1. To feel regret or self-reproach for: *repent one's sins*.

2. Archaic To cause (one or oneself) to feel remorse or regret: "And it repented the Lord that he had made man on the earth" (King James Bible).

[American Heritage® Dictionary of the English Language, Fifth Edition. Copyright © 2016 by Houghton Mifflin Harcourt Publishing Company. Published by Houghton Mifflin Harcourt Publishing Company. All rights reserved.

<https://www.thefreedictionary.com/repent>, accessed: 07-31-2026.]

**Synonyms:** regret; lament; rue; sorrow; be sorry about; deplore; be ashamed of; relent; atone for; etc.

<https://www.freethesaurus.com/repent>, accessed: 07-31-2026.]

Q2. **Because they did not repent:** Thinking back to John the Baptist's ministry and that of our Lord Jesus's, is repentance important? Why?

Yes? Maybe? No? (Why did you circle that answer?)

**Isaiah 59:2** [International Children's Bible (ICB)]

It is your evil that has separated you from your God. Your sins cause him to turn away from you. And then he does not hear you.

## Lesson 21: Matthew 11:20-30 & 12:1-8

**Romans 3:23** [English Standard Version (ESV)]

for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God

**Romans 6:23** [New Living Translation (NLT)]

For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life through Christ Jesus our Lord.

Q3. Then Jesus began to denounce the cities in which most of his miracles had been performed: What did Jesus's miracles demonstrate?

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Q4. *Then Jesus began to denounce the cities in which most of his miracles had been performed:*

① How do you define "denounce"? ② Is this bad? ③ Why did Jesus denounce these cities?

① Definition?

② Is this bad? Yes? Maybe? No? (Thoughts?)

③ Why denounce?

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**Definition:** de•nounce (dr'naʊns)

v.t. -nounced, -nounc•ing.

1. to condemn or censure openly or publicly.
2. to make a formal accusation against, as to the police or in a court.
3. to give formal notice of the termination or denial of (a treaty, pact, or the like).

[Random House Kernerman Webster's College Dictionary, © 2010 K Dictionaries Ltd. Copyright 2005, 1997, 1991 by Random House, Inc. All rights reserved. <https://www.thefreedictionary.com/denounce>, accessed: 07-31-2026.]

**Synonyms:** condemn; attack; censure; decry; castigate; revile; vilify; proscribe; stigmatize; etc. [<https://www.freethesaurus.com/denounce>, accessed: 07-31-2026.]

<sup>21</sup> "Woe to you, Korazin [kôr-ă-zîn; also spelled Chorazin]! Woe to you, Bethsaida [Běth-sây-dăh]! If the miracles that were performed in you had been performed in Tyre [Tîre] and Sidon [Sîgh-dûn], they would have repented long ago in sackcloth and ashes.

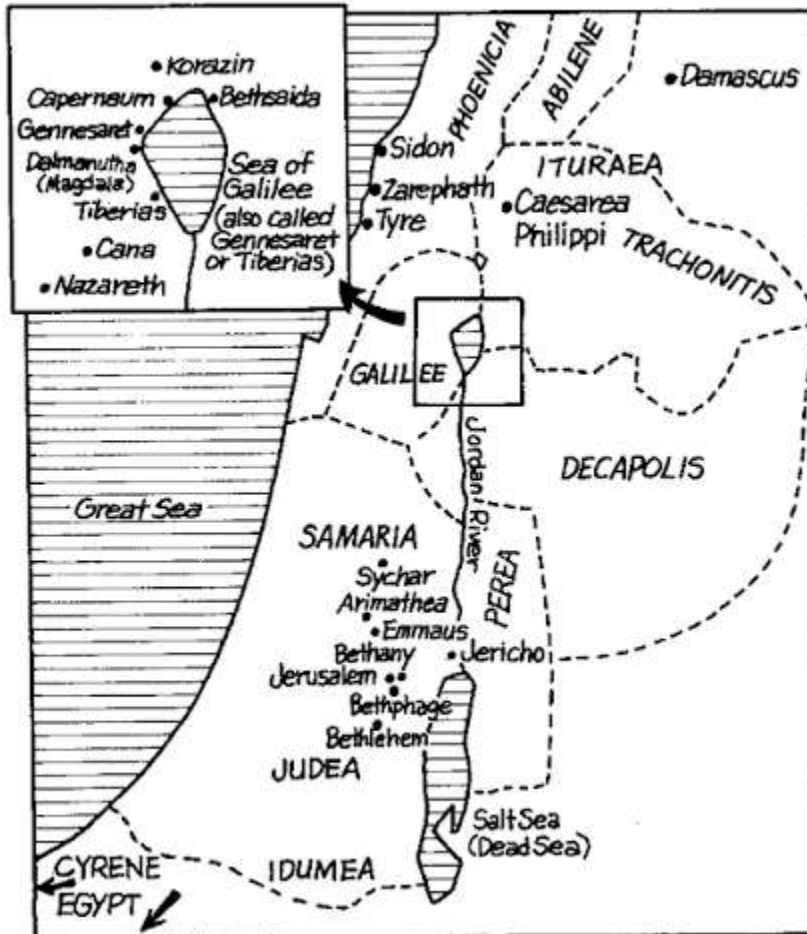
Q5. *Woe to you, Korazin! Woe to you, Bethsaida!* Why would Jesus make this statement against these communities?

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## Lesson 21: Matthew 11:20-30 & 12:1-8

 [Isaiah 23:1-18](#) foretells of God's coming judgment against Tyre and Sidon, which were bustling cities located on the shore of the Mediterranean Sea west-by-northwest of Capernaum, Korazin, and Bethsaida. These three cities were located on (or near) the northern shore of the Sea of Galilee. The Gentile cities of Tyre and Sidon were famous shipping centers or "*the merchant of the nations*" [Isaiah 23:3].



Map depicting the locations of Sidon and Tyre to Bethsaida, Korazin, and Capernaum.  
<http://www.sundayschoollessons.com/epi6lart.htm>, accessed: 08-01-2026.

 "Jesus uses the Greek word *ouai*, which is translated into English as 'woe', or more archaically as 'alas!' The word is used in the New Testament to combine ideas of 'doom' and 'pity'. Jesus proclaims 'woe' upon Chorazin and Bethsaida.

"Chorazin — spelled Korazin in some translations — is only mentioned in the New Testament in this statement by Jesus. Scholars suggest its ruins may be found northwest of the city of Capernaum, Jesus' adopted hometown on the northwest shore of the Sea of Galilee. Bethsaida is likely the place mentioned as the hometown of Andrew, Peter, and Philip ([John 1:44](#)). It was on the west side of the Sea of Galilee.

"Jesus condemns both towns for not turning from sin and to faith in Him after seeing His mighty works. Repentance in the Old Testament was often marked by acts of great humility and mourning, including wearing the coarsest of materials and covering one's head and body in ash. Christ says if the people in the towns of Tyre and Sidon had seen Him do the same miracles, they would have long ago repented from their sin in sackcloth and ashes.

"Tyre and Sidon were Phoenician cities on the Mediterranean coast. They were often condemned by prophets in the Old Testament because of the pagan worship of the false god Baal. The pair became famous as living symbols of God's wrath in the judgment ([Joel 3:4](#)), as well as places where unlikely-seeming repentance and recognition of God might occur ([1 Kings 17:9, 24](#)).

"How worthy of judgment are these two Jewish towns if they refuse to repent in response to the same evidence that would have brought the most wicked Gentile cities to their knees?" [© Copyright 2002-2026 Got Questions Ministries. All rights reserved. <https://www.bibleref.com/Matthew/11/Matthew-11-21.html>. Retrieved: 08-01-2026.]

## Lesson 21: Matthew 11:20-30 & 12:1-8

 Ezekiel was a prophet of God and foretold the destruction of the cities of Sidon and Tyre in his book [Ezekiel 26-28](#).

 Google AI provided this summary:

### **“The Destruction of Tyre**

“**Nebuchadnezzar II:** The Babylonian king besieged the mainland part of Tyre for 13 years (585–572 BC) and destroyed it, though the citizens had largely moved to a nearby island fortress.

“**Alexander the Great:** The Greek conqueror completely breached and destroyed the island city of Tyre in 332 BC after a seven-month siege. He famously used the rubble and stones from the ruined mainland city to build a land bridge (causeway) out to the island.

### **“The Destruction of Sidon**

“**Persian Conquest:** Sidon suffered severe subjugation and destruction under the Persian king Artaxerxes III around 343 BC after a failed rebellion by the Sidonian king.

“**Later Powers:** Like Tyre, Sidon was later rebuilt and became a functioning part of the Greek, Roman, and subsequent empires before facing further historical conflicts through the medieval period.”

[©2026 Google. Summary provided by Google AI. Keywords: “Bible was Tyre and Sidon destroyed?” Accessed: 08-01-2026.]

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## Day 2

 Please pray for holy guidance and insight before you begin today’s study.

<sup>22</sup> But I tell you, it will be more bearable for Tyre and Sidon on the day of judgment than for you.

Q6. *Than for you*: To whom is Jesus referencing by “you”?

Q7. *It will be more bearable for Tyre and Sidon on the day of judgment than for you*: Why did Jesus say “it will be more bearable for [the Gentile cities of] Tyre and Sidon . . . than for you”?

Hints: ① Who was rejected? ② What did He do to prove His claim? ③ Since Korazin and Bethsaida were considered Jewish cities, would more be expected from them?

① Who was rejected?

② What did He do?

③ Would more be expected of them? Yes? No? (Why did you circle that answer?)

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**Luke 12:48<sup>b</sup>** [NIV-1984]

From everyone who has been given much, much will be demanded; and from the one who has been entrusted with much, much more will be asked.

**Deuteronomy 14:2** [NIV-1984]

for you are a people holy to the Lord your God. Out of all the peoples on the face of the earth, the Lord has chosen you to be his treasured possession. [Also [Deuteronomy 7:6](#).]

## Lesson 21: Matthew 11:20-30 & 12:1-8

Q8. The Jews were God's "*treasured possession*", His chosen people. With the arrival of the Messiah, did the Jews 'get a pass' into Paradise for all eternity, or were they, are they required to believe Jesus's words, which were proved by the evidence of His miracles?

Got a pass? Belief required? (Thoughts?)

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**John 14:6** [NIV-1984]

Jesus answered, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.

**John 3:36** [New Living Translation (NLT)]

And anyone who believes in God's Son has eternal life. Anyone who doesn't obey the Son will never experience eternal life but remains under God's angry judgment."



"These words from Jesus likely infuriated the Jewish religious leaders. Tyre and Sidon were pagan cities, famously used in the Old Testament as symbols of those who would suffer the wrath of God ([Joel 3:4](#); [Ezekiel 27:1-9](#); [Ezekiel 28:21-23](#)). However, Jesus has just declared that on the day of judgment, the Gentile idol-worshippers of Tyre and Sidon will be judged less harshly than the religious Israelites of Chorazin and Bethsaida [sic].

"The difference between these two pairs of cities is that one group saw Jesus perform mighty and powerful acts of healing and casting out demons. The other did not. God not only knows all that is, and all that will be, He also know all possible outcomes for all possible situations. As God, Jesus knew that if the pagans in the Gentile cities had seen Him do those things, they would have fallen to their knees in genuine repentance. By contrast, the two Jewish cities where the miracles took place refused to repent or acknowledge Jesus as the Messiah.

"Many Israelites believed that simply being one of God's chosen people would be enough to secure their place in the kingdom of heaven forever (Matthew 3:9). Jesus directly contradicts that idea in this passage. Only those Israelites who repent and acknowledge Him as the Messiah, the Son of God, will avoid judgment (John 3:36 ↑).

"Jesus also introduces the difficult idea that there will be levels of judgment on Judgment Day: the moment when Christ returns to fully establish His earthly kingdom. Some judgment for those who did not repent will be more bearable than other judgment. One reason for that difference will be the opportunity to see convincing evidence that Jesus is the Son of God." [© Copyright 2002-2026 Got Questions Ministries. All rights reserved. <https://www.bibleref.com/Matthew/3/Matthew-3-3.html>. Accessed: 08-02-2026.]

<sup>23</sup> And you, Capernaum, will you be lifted up to the skies? No, you will go down to the depths. If the miracles that were performed in you had been performed in Sodom, it would have remained to this day. <sup>24</sup> But I tell you that it will be more bearable for Sodom on the day of judgment than for you."

Q9. *And you, Capernaum, will you be lifted up to the skies*: Did the people of Capernaum believe they were guaranteed eternal life in Paradise?

Yes? Probably? No? (Thoughts?)

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## Lesson 21: Matthew 11:20-30 & 12:1-8

**Matthew 4:13** [NIV-1984]

<sup>13</sup> Leaving Nazareth, he went and lived in Capernaum, which was by the lake in the area of Zebulun and Naphtali

Q10. If the miracles that were performed in you had been performed in Sodom: What did Jesus's "miracles" prove?

Yes? Maybe? No? (Thoughts?)

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Q11. *If the miracles that were performed in you had been performed in Sodom:* Does the Bible describe the wickedness and the resultant judgment imposed upon "Sodom" (and Gomorrah)? (Hint: See [Genesis 13-14, 18-19](#))

Yes? Maybe? No? (Please summarize.)

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Q12. *If the miracles that were performed in you had been performed in Sodom, it would have remained to this day:* Jesus declared that judgment against "Sodom" (and Gomorrah) would have been stopped. What action would the citizens of "Sodom" (and Gomorrah) have to perform? (Hint: What did both John the Baptist and Jesus admonish the people in their audiences to do? [Matthew 3:2](#); [Matthew 4:17](#).)

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Q13. (**Personal** not to be discussed in a group) *If the miracles that were performed in you had been performed in Sodom, it would have remained to this day:* Jesus has been emphasizing 'repentance'. Do you repent of your sins? Why? Or why not?

Yes? Maybe? No? (Why did you circle that answer?)

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## Lesson 21: Matthew 11:20-30 & 12:1-8

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### Day 3

 Please pray for holy guidance and insight before you begin today's study.

### *Jesus Offers Rest*

<sup>25</sup> At that time Jesus said, "I praise you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because you have hidden these things from the wise and learned, and revealed them to little children. <sup>26</sup> Yes, Father, for this was your good pleasure.

Q14. I praise you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because you have hidden these things from the wise and learned, and revealed them to little children: ① Why would Jesus “praise” His “Father” for “[hiding] these things from the wise and learned”? ② Do you think Jesus may have been frustrated by the response He received from His audiences?

① Why “praise” His “Father”?

② Was Jesus frustrated? Yes? Maybe? No? (Thoughts?)

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#### **1 Thessalonians 5:16-18** [NIV-1984]

<sup>16</sup> Be joyful always; <sup>17</sup> pray continually; <sup>18</sup> give thanks in all circumstances, for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus.

Q15. ***You have hidden these things from the wise and learned, and revealed them to little children:*** What are the “*things*” Jesus said were “*hidden*”? (Hint: see [Matthew 11:20-24](#))

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Q16. ***You have hidden these things from the wise and learned, and revealed them to little children:*** Why does God “[hide] these things from the wise and learned”? Wouldn’t “the wise and learned” be especially convincing to the general population? (Hint: see the questions following Matthew 11:18 & 19 ↑, and [1 Corinthians 1:18-21, 25, 29](#) ↑)

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## Lesson 21: Matthew 11:20-30 & 12:1-8

Q17. **You have hidden these things from the wise and learned, and revealed them to little children:** Why does God “reveal . . . them to little children”? (Hint: Is Jesus suggesting that adults must believe with the innocence of little children? If yes, then how? Adults are thoughtful, logical, and their knowledge is molded by individual life experiences.)

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Q18. Why does Matthew seem to repeat Jesus’s teachings?

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<sup>27</sup> "All things have been committed to me by my Father. No one knows the Son except the Father, and no one knows the Father except the Son and those to whom the Son chooses to reveal him.

Q19. (Verse 27) What does Jesus’s statement reveal about Himself?

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-  Verse 27 is translated differently depending upon the version:
- † All things have been committed to me by my Father. [New International Version-1984]
  - † All things have been handed over to me by my Father [English Standard Version (ESV)]
  - † My Father has given me all things. [International Children’s Bible (ICB)]
  - † My Father has entrusted everything to me. [New Living Translation (NLT)]

Q20. *All things have been committed to me by my Father:* What did Jesus mean by this declaration?

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**Matthew 28:18** [NIV-1984]

[An excerpt from the Great Commission]

Then Jesus came to them and said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me.

## Lesson 21: Matthew 11:20-30 & 12:1-8

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### Day 4

 Please pray for holy guidance and insight before you begin today's study.

<sup>28</sup> "Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. <sup>29</sup> Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. <sup>30</sup> For my yoke is easy and my burden is light."

Q21. ***Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened:*** Is Jesus inviting people who are tired from carrying a heavy load of endless, monotonous labor? Or people who feel overwhelmed by their choices of sin? Or people who try, and try, and try to do good for their church, and for God?

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Q22. ***Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened:*** ① Do people sometimes reject Jesus because their sins are too great, too many, too overwhelming? ② If yes, what is Jesus's answer?

① Do people sometimes reject Jesus? Yes? Maybe? No? (Thoughts?)

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② If yes, what is Jesus's answer?

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 The scholars at GotQuestionsMinistries provided this explanation as we conclude our study of chapter 11:

"Jesus has made an extraordinary claim and now He makes an extraordinary offer to all who hear Him. He claimed in the previous verse to be the only one who knows God the Father and to be able to reveal the Father to anyone He chooses ([Matthew 11:25-27](#)). Now He makes an invitation: if you're struggling and tired, I can give you relief.

"Here is the implication. Jesus' Jewish listeners were engaged in a mighty struggle to know God the Father. Their religious leaders had placed enormous burdens on them ([Matthew 23:4](#)), and they were laboring to carry those burdens in hopes of being approved by God. Jesus has just said that He can reveal His Father to anyone, and He immediately offers rest to everyone who is weighed down.

"Jesus is not talking about physical rest, necessarily. The following verse will describe it as rest for the soul. The path to the Father through Jesus is not one of weary labor and heavy work. Jesus' earlier analogy about the path to life being narrow and 'difficult' ([Matthew 7:14](#)) is entirely separate, and speaking from a different perspective. From the view of the world, following Christ means taking on difficult circumstances and giving up worldly pleasures. From the view of eternity — of salvation — following Christ means giving up the impossible task of carrying our own sin.

"Christ does not say it here, but the gospel will reveal that Jesus is offering to carry the burden and do the work in order to lead those who come to Him — those who are 'yoked' to Him — to the Father ([Matthew 11:30](#); [John 6:29](#) ↓)."

**John 6:29** [New Living Translation (NLT)]

Jesus told them, "This is the only work God wants from you: Believe in the one he has sent."

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 The commentator Albert Barnes also provided this insight:

*All you who are weary and burdened:* “The Saviour here, perhaps, refers primarily to the Jews, who groaned under the weight of their ceremonial laws and the traditions of the elders, [Acts 15:10](#). He tells them that by coming to him, and embracing the new system of religion, they would be freed from these burdensome rites and ceremonies. There can be no doubt, however, that he meant here chiefly to address the poor, lost, ruined sinner: the man ‘burdened’ with a consciousness of his transgressions, trembling at his danger, and seeking deliverance. For such there is relief. Christ tells them to come to him, to believe in him, and to trust him, and him only, for salvation. Doing this, he will give them rest - rest from their sins, from the alarms of conscience, from the terrors of the law, and from the fears of eternal death.”

<sup>30</sup> For my yoke is easy and my burden is light."

Q23. ***For my yoke is easy and my burden is light:*** Is Jesus implying that if we accept Him, then our “yoke” and our “burden” will be likewise “easy” and “light”?

Yes? Maybe? No? (Why did you circle that answer?)

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Q24. ***For my yoke is easy and my burden is light:*** Is Jesus promising to lighten the burden of physical labor? Or the burden and attraction of sin in this world?

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## Jesus Is Lord of the Sabbath

<sup>12:1</sup> At that time Jesus went through the grainfields on the Sabbath. His disciples were hungry and began to pick some heads of grain and eat them.

<sup>2</sup> When the Pharisees saw this, they said to him, "Look! Your disciples are doing what is unlawful on the Sabbath."

Q25. ***Jesus went through the grainfields on the Sabbath:*** Was it customary for travelers (sojourners) to find grain remaining in the field after a harvest?

Yes? Maybe? No? (Why did you circle that answer?)

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**Leviticus 19:9-10** [New Living Translation (NLT)]

<sup>9</sup> “When you harvest the crops of your land, do not harvest the grain along the edges of your fields, and do not pick up what the harvesters drop. <sup>10</sup> It is the same with your grape crop — do not strip every

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last bunch of grapes from the vines, and do not pick up the grapes that fall to the ground. Leave them for the poor and the foreigners living among you. I am the Lord your God.

### Deuteronomy 24:19 [New Living Translation (NLT)]

“When you are harvesting your crops and forget to bring in a bundle of grain from your field, don’t go back to get it. Leave it for the foreigners, orphans, and widows. Then the Lord your God will bless you in all you do.

Q26. *On the Sabbath. His disciples were hungry and began to pick some heads of grain and eat them:* ① What day of the week were Jesus and His disciples walking (traveling)?

② Did the Jewish laws, rules, and regulations permit traveling and/or gathering grain to eat?

① What was the day of the week?

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② Was traveling and/or gathering grain to eat permitted? Yes? Maybe? No? (Thoughts?)

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“The idea that you can only walk about 2,000 cubits (roughly 0.6 miles or 1 kilometer) is a traditional Jewish rabbinical rule, not a direct command from the written Torah [Pentateuch, or the first five books of the Holy Bible].”  
[Source: ©2026 Google. Summary provided by Google AI. Keywords: “Bible allow traveling on the sabbath?” Accessed: 08-04-2026.]

### Exodus 20:8-11 [New American Standard Bible (NASB)]

[Commandment #4]

<sup>8</sup> “Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy. <sup>9</sup> For six days you shall labor and do all your work, <sup>10</sup> but the seventh day is a Sabbath of the Lord your God; on it you shall not do any work, you, or your son, or your daughter, your male slave or your female slave, or your cattle, or your resident who stays with you. <sup>11</sup> For in six days the Lord made the heavens and the earth, the sea and everything that is in them, and He rested on the seventh day; for that reason the Lord blessed the Sabbath day and made it holy.

Q27. (Regarding the 4<sup>th</sup> Commandment from [Exodus 20:8-11](#) ↑) What was the “*reason the Lord blessed the Sabbath day and made it holy*”?

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### Mark 2:27 [English Standard Version (ESV)]

And he said to them, “The Sabbath was made for man, not man for the Sabbath.

Q28. (Regarding the 4<sup>th</sup> Commandment from [Exodus 20:8-11](#) ↑) If God worked for six days and then rested on the Sabbath, what should we infer are our Sabbath duties if we follow the 4<sup>th</sup> Commandment?

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## Lesson 21: Matthew 11:20-30 & 12:1-8

Q29. (The Ten Commandments: [Exodus 20:3-17](#); [Deuteronomy 5:6-21](#)) As you reread the 4<sup>th</sup> Commandment, what should differentiate your Sabbath Day from your six other days?  
(Hints/thoughts: Traditionally, on a Sabbath/Sunday we travel to a church building, perhaps attend a Bible-related class, and worship God by singing several hymns/songs, possibly reciting a liturgy, and listening to an inspirational, teaching message. As you read the Ten Commandments, does a commandment tell us to worship God only on the Sabbath? To pray only on the Sabbath? To study God's Word only on the Sabbath? Husbands: if you are the spiritual leader of your household, do you ensure that your wife has the same opportunities to rest as you? Do you equally share household and childcare duties?)

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Q30. (The Ten Commandments: [Exodus 20:3-17](#); [Deuteronomy 5:6-21](#)) When Jesus came into the world as The Messiah, He came to fulfill the Law. Does the Old Testament Law (specifically, the Ten Commandments) apply to Believers, today?

Yes? Maybe? No? (Thoughts?)

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### Matthew 5:17-18 [NIV-1984]

<sup>17</sup> "Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I have not come to abolish them but to fulfill them. <sup>18</sup> I tell you the truth, until heaven and earth disappear, not the smallest letter, not the least stroke of a pen, will by any means disappear from the Law until everything is accomplished.

 Notes to Exodus 16:23, 26-27 (↓): When the Jewish people were wandering in the desert for forty-years after their deliverance from Egyptian slavery, they complained loudly against Moses and the Lord. They thought they were starving to death as they wandered. So, each morning God provided manna (or bread, [Exodus 16:31](#)) for their sustenance. Sunday through Thursday they could gather enough for that day. On Friday, they could gather enough for two days: Friday and the following day – Saturday, the Sabbath. On the Sabbath, they were to focus on rest, on the Lord; not on gathering food for the family, or work.

### Exodus 16:23, 26-27 [New Living Translation (NLT)]

[God provides manna.]

<sup>23</sup> He [Moses] told them, "This is what the Lord commanded: Tomorrow will be a day of complete rest, a holy Sabbath day set apart for the Lord. So, bake or boil as much as you want today, and set aside what is left for tomorrow." ...

<sup>25</sup> Moses said, "Eat this food today, for today is a Sabbath day dedicated to the Lord. There will be no food on the ground today. <sup>26</sup> You may gather the food for six days, but the seventh day is the Sabbath. There will be no food on the ground that day."

### Exodus 34:21 [New Living Translation (NLT)]

[God said,] "You have six days each week for your ordinary work, but on the seventh day you must stop working, even during the seasons of plowing and harvest.

 "The Bible gives different rules for gathering food on the Sabbath: a strict command against commercial harvesting and organized gathering, contrasted with a permitted allowance for picking small amounts of grain to satisfy immediate hunger." [Source: ©2026 Google. Summary provided by Google AI. Keywords: "Bible allow gathering food to eat on the sabbath?"]

## Lesson 21: Matthew 11:20-30 & 12:1-8

Accessed: 08-04-2026.]

### Deuteronomy 23:24-25 [New Living Translation (NLT)]

[For the poor or the sojourner/traveler God provided access to a farmer's grain field or vineyard; however, he or she could not harvest (represented by the 'basket' and the 'sickle'), they could only eat as they picked fruit directly from vines or grain stalks.]

<sup>24</sup> "When you enter your neighbor's vineyard, you may eat your fill of grapes, but you must not carry any away in a basket. <sup>25</sup> And when you enter your neighbor's field of grain, you may pluck the heads of grain with your hand, but you must not harvest it with a sickle.

Q31. When the Pharisees saw this, they said to him, "Look! Your disciples are doing what is unlawful on the Sabbath.": Is this strict interpretation of the Law correct (legalism)?

Yes? Maybe? No? (Why did you circle that answer?)

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### Matthew 12:7 [NIV-1984]

[Jesus replied to the religious leaders,] If you had known what these words mean, 'I desire mercy, not sacrifice' [[Hosea 6:6](#)], you would not have condemned the innocent.

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## Day 5

 Please pray for holy guidance and insight before you begin today's study.

<sup>3</sup> He answered, "Haven't you read what David did when he and his companions were hungry? <sup>4</sup> He entered the house of God, and he and his companions ate the consecrated bread — which was not lawful for them to do, but only for the priests.

Q32. (Verses 3 & 4) Why did Jesus bring-up this event from Jewish history? (Hint: David was anointed king by the Jewish prophet Samuel, [1 Samuel 16:13](#). At the time of this event, David was fleeing persecution by King Saul. See [1 Samuel, chapters 16-31](#). So. Was Jesus exposing the hypocrisy of the Pharisees <sup>Y/N</sup>? Did the Pharisees believe that Jesus's disciples were wrong, but David was in the right to disobey the Levitical Law <sup>Y/N</sup>? See Leviticus 24:5-9 ↓. Which law had greater weight in governing behavior: Levitical Law or rabbinical rule? Was one law/rule from God <sup>Y/N</sup>? And the other law/rule from man <sup>Y/N</sup>?)

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### Leviticus 24:5-9 [NIV-1984]

[God establishes the rite of the 'Holy Bread']

<sup>5</sup> "Take fine flour and bake twelve loaves of bread, using two-tenths of an ephah for each loaf. <sup>6</sup> Set them in two rows, six in each row, on the table of pure gold before the Lord. <sup>7</sup> Along each row put some pure incense as a memorial portion to represent the bread and to be an offering made to the Lord

## Lesson 21: Matthew 11:20-30 & 12:1-8

by fire. <sup>8</sup> This bread is to be set out before the Lord regularly, Sabbath after Sabbath, on behalf of the Israelites, as a lasting covenant. <sup>9</sup> It belongs to Aaron and his sons, who are to eat it in a holy place, because it is a most holy part of their regular share of the food offerings presented to the Lord.”

### 1 Samuel 21:1a, 3-4, 6 [New Living Translation (NLT)]

<sup>1a</sup> David went to the town of Nob to see Ahimelech the priest. . . .

<sup>3</sup> [David asked Ahimelech,] Now, what is there to eat? Give me five loaves of bread or anything else you have.”

<sup>4</sup> “We don’t have any regular bread,” the priest replied. “But there is the holy bread, which you can have if your young men have not slept with any women recently.” . . .

<sup>6</sup> Since there was no other food available, the priest gave him the holy bread — the Bread of the Presence that was placed before the Lord in the Tabernacle. It had just been replaced that day with fresh bread.



*An illustration: The Holy Bread, or Bread of the Presence, or Showbread*

*It consists of twelve loaves, one for each tribe of Israel, [Exodus 25:30](#)*

*Found in the Holy Place (compared to the Most Holy Place) of the Jewish Temple.*

*Source: <https://i0.wp.com/bcooper.ca/wp-content/uploads/2017/07/image009.jpg?resize=475%2C318&ssl=1>*

*©2026 by Reasoned Cases For Christ; <https://bcooper.ca/2017/07/14/david-and-the-showbread/>, accessed: 08-04-2026.*

<sup>5</sup> Or haven't you read in the Law that on the Sabbath the priests in the temple desecrate the day and yet are innocent?

Q33. ***On the Sabbath the priests in the temple desecrate the day and yet are innocent:*** How do “the priests in the temple desecrate the [Sabbath] day”? (Do they break the 4<sup>th</sup> Commandment?)

Q34. ***On the Sabbath the priests in the temple desecrate the day and yet are innocent:*** Why do “the priests in the temple . . . [remain] innocent”? (After all, they break the 4<sup>th</sup> Commandment.)

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### Numbers 28:9–10 [NIV-1984]

[The Jewish Priests in the Temple were required to work; their work was difficult and bloody.]

<sup>9</sup> " 'On the Sabbath day, make an offering of two lambs a year old without defect, together with its drink offering and a grain offering of two-tenths of an ephah of fine flour mixed with oil. <sup>10</sup> This is the burnt offering for every Sabbath, in addition to the regular burnt offering and its drink offering.

<sup>6</sup> I tell you that one greater than the temple is here.

Q35. I tell you that one greater than the temple is here: What does this statement mean to you?

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## Day 6

 Please pray for holy guidance and insight before you begin today's study.

<sup>7</sup> If you had known what these words mean, 'I desire mercy, not sacrifice,' you would not have condemned the innocent.

Q36. If you had known what these words mean, 'I desire mercy, not sacrifice': What is "mercy"?

### Hosea 6:6 [NIV-1984]

For I desire mercy, not sacrifice, and acknowledgment of God rather than burnt offerings.

 Jesus continues to emphasize "mercy, not sacrifice". Jesus made a similar statement, which we studied in Matthew 9, verse 13 ([Lesson 15: Matthew 9:9-26, pages 3-4](#)).

Q37. **You would not have condemned the innocent:** ① Who did the "condemning"? ② Who was "innocent" and yet was "condemned"?

① Who did the condemning?

② Who was "innocent" and yet was "condemned"?

### Micah 6:6-8 [NIV-1984]

<sup>6</sup> With what shall I come before the Lord and bow down before the exalted God? Shall I come before him with burnt offerings, with calves a year old? <sup>7</sup> Will the Lord be pleased with thousands of rams, with ten thousand rivers of oil? Shall I offer my firstborn for my transgression, the fruit of my

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body for the sin of my soul? <sup>8</sup> He has showed you, O man, what is good. And what does the Lord require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God.

Q38. (Personal not to be discussed in a group) *If you had known what these words mean, 'I desire mercy, not sacrifice':* When you help a neighbor, or contribute to the needy, or perform a service for another, what is your motive? Is your action “mercy”? Or do you actually, secretly consider it a “sacrifice”?

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<sup>8</sup> For the Son of Man is Lord of the Sabbath.”

Q39. For the Son of Man is Lord of the Sabbath: Who is the “Son of Man”?

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 For a more complete discussion surrounding Jesus’s use of the “Son of Man” terminology, please refer to [StudySheet/ Lesson 14: Matthew 8:18-34 & 9:1-8, page 2](#).

Q40. *For the Son of Man is Lord of the Sabbath:* ① What does “*Lord of the Sabbath*” mean?  
② And what is Jesus inferring? (Hint: “If you think the Sabbath is holy . . . well, I’m greater than the Sabbath.” A different thought?)

① What does “*Lord of the Sabbath*” mean?

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② What is Jesus inferring?

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