



# SPORTS IN FOCUS

THE REACTIONS TO THE KING

Matthew 11:1-12:50 • Lesson Six

## READY

- There's no shortage of opinions about who Jesus is and no shortage of expressions for or against Him. What are some of the strongest reactions to Jesus—positive and negative—that you've heard or seen? Why such strong reactions from people?

## SET

### Context of Matthew 11:1-12:50

The first ten chapters of Matthew are, in general, a series of testimonies that prove who Jesus is. Matthew marshals all that evidence into the courtroom as it were, to testify that Jesus is the Christ, the King of kings, the Son of God, and the Savior of the world. In chapters 11 and 12 Matthew focuses on the reasons of various individuals and groups to that evidence.

### Keys to Text

*The Sabbath:* Jewish tradition prohibited the practice of medicine on the Sabbath and doing labor for profit. But no actual law in the Old Testament forbade plucking grain for food, nor the giving of medicine, healing, or any other acts of mercy on the Sabbath. It is always lawful to do good. Christ has the prerogative to rule over not only man-made sabbatarian rules, but also over the Sabbath itself—which was designed for worshipping God. Again, this was an inescapable claim of deity.

## GO

### Read Matthew 11:1-12:50

1. What do you learn about John the Baptist (11:1-18)?
2. What was the source of the conflicts between Jesus and the religious leaders in Matthew 12:1-13?
3. What does the prophecy of 12:18-21 say about Messiah?
4. What conclusions did the Pharisees make about Christ, based on His words and works?
5. How did Jesus respond when the scribe and Pharisees asked Him for an additional sign?
6. What was behind the Pharisees' intense hostility to Jesus?
7. According to Jesus, what is the unpardonable sin?
8. What are we to make of the religious leaders' request in Matthew 12:38?
9. What is the significance of Jesus' response when His family comes looking for him?

## SPORTS IN FOCUS

Quarterback Brett Favre awaits the outcome of an NFL inquiry into whether he sent inappropriate messages and salacious photos to Jenn Sterger when both of them worked for the New York Jets in 2008. Earlier this week, he apologized to his Minnesota Vikings teammates for the distraction created by the NFL's inquiry into his behavior. This scandal reminds me of something I heard my college coach repeat more than once. He said, "The greater the privilege, the greater the responsibility." With today's Sports In Focus lesson, we also see how the bible teaches "The greater the privilege, the greater the responsibility; and the greater the light, the greater the punishment for not receiving it." When people have a great opportunity to hear God's Word and even to see it miraculously demonstrated and then reject it, their guilt is intensified immeasurably. It is far better to have heard nothing of Christ than to hear the truth about Him and yet reject Him. "For if we sin willfully after we have received the knowledge of the truth, there no longer remains a sacrifice for sins, but a certain fearful expectation of judgement" (Heb. 10:26-27 NKJV). [www.nebraskafca.org](http://www.nebraskafca.org)