**Judgment from the Queen of the South**

*Matthew 12:42*

**Introduction**

1. The Pharisees had shown their obstinacy toward Jesus’ authority, but in Matthew 12 they displayed it on an elevated level.
2. Jesus was presented with a demon-possessed, blind and mute individual, and He cast out the demon.
	1. Multitudes reaction – **Matthew 12:23** – Son of David?
	2. Pharisees reaction – **Matthew 12:24** – Casts out by Beelzebub. (Satan)
3. Jesus knew their dishonest hearts and exposed the logical flaw in their attempt to smear Jesus, and also warned them about the height of their refusal to believe by blaspheming the Holy Spirit.
	1. The HS was God’s way of confirming Jesus as the Son of God.
	2. This would continue in the final dispensation when Christ spoke through the apostles.
	3. To reject the confirmation and witness of Christ in the work of the HS was to reject the final presentation of evidence from God concerning Christ – nothing else was coming to convict and offer forgiveness.
4. It is in this context when the Pharisees hypocritically asked for a sign from Jesus, and He exposed their dishonest ways – **Matthew 12:38-40** (Sign of prophet Jonah – Jesus’ death, burial, and resurrection would be the greatest sign for them – and a work of the HS they would need to accept, not blaspheme.)
5. In addition to the foreshadowing of the sign of Jonah, Jesus gave two examples from the OT that would stand in judgment of the obstinate Pharisees in the end:
	1. **Matthew 12:41** – Men of Nineveh – repentance.
	2. **Matthew 12:42** – Queen of the South – eagerness and willingness to sit at the feet of divine wisdom.
6. Consider especially the judgement from the Queen of the South – **(v. 42)** – **1 Kings 10:1-13**
7. We can learn much from the actions of the Queen of Sheba – will her actions stand in judgment against us, or will we be shown to have exceeded her behavior?
8. Eagerness
9. **1 Kings 10:1** – When she heard of Solomon’s wisdom, she was eager to witness it herself. To the extent of traveling a great distance.
10. Are we as eager to hear One greater than Solomon?
	1. **Matthew 5:6** – hunger and thirst for righteousness?
	2. **James 1:19** – swift to hear – after stating the goodness of God in His word – **James 1:17-18**
	3. Eager as the Psalmist **– Psalm 42:1-2** (like thirst!); **63:1-8** (eager seeking, and constant remembrance)
	4. Eager like the Bereans – **Acts 17:11-12**
		1. Readiness – *prothumia*; “eagerness, willingness, readiness” (pro, “forward,” thumos, “mind, disposition,”) (VINE) (eagerness to hear, and eagerness to obey if true)
		2. Eager searching of scripture.
	5. Eager to enter God’s house to sit at His feet, worship, and learn – **Psalm 122:1**
11. Access
12. **1 Kings 10:1-2** – It was far from convenient for the Queen to visit Solomon.
	1. Distance – Sheba to Jerusalem – region probably in southern Arabia.
		1. ***Matthew 12:42 – “she came from the ends of the earth”*** – a great distance.
		2. ﻿“her land was approximately a thousand miles from Jerusalem.” (C. G. “Colly” Caldwell, Edited by Mike Willis. Truth Commentaries – Luke)
	2. Time and cost – the time and cost it would take to travel such a distance in antiquity was great.
13. Do we take advantage of the easy access to One greater than Solomon?
	1. **Romans 10:6-8** – we do not have to accomplish great feats to come to know God’s wisdom!
	2. God’s wisdom has been graciously revealed to us in the gospel – **1 Corinthians 2:9-10**
	3. **Ephesians 3:3-4** – by giving attention to reading we can come to understand God’s vast wisdom!
	4. We live in the time of the full revelation of God’s will – **1 Corinthians 13:10-12; Jude 3** – it is literally at our fingertips.
14. Thorough Inquiry
15. **1 Kings 10:2** – The Queen did not fail to take full advantage of the wisdom before her by asking anything that was on her heart.
16. Do we take advantage of the wisdom of One greater than Solomon to the fullest degree?
	1. **James 1:5** – do we ask God for wisdom often?
		1. Gives liberally – He will be abundant in His giving – vast wisdom, always something to add in growth.
		2. Without reproach – sometimes we shy away from “picking another’s brain” because we don’t want to be a bother – GOD WANTS US TO ASK CONTINUALLY!
	2. Do we seek and ask for the deeper things of God’s wisdom? – **Psalm 119:17-19**
	3. **Hebrews 4:14-16** – we have at our disposal the One who never sinned despite the myriad temptations He experienced – do we question Him often about all that is trying us?
	4. Do we pour our hearts out before God in order to find aid? – **Philippians 4:6-7**
17. Acceptance
18. **1 Kings 10:6-9** – Even though the Queen was eager to meet Solomon, she had no confirmation of his supposed wisdom beforehand. However, when she spoke with him she accepted his wisdom without hesitation.
19. Do we unhesitatingly accept the wisdom of the One greater than Solomon?
	1. This was the problem with the Pharisees – **Matthew 12:42** – they did not accept the wisdom of Jesus.
	2. Accepting the word like the Thessalonians – **1 Thessalonians 2:13** – as the word of God, and letting it effectively work in us.
		1. Continually doing so – **1 Thessalonians 5:19-22**
	3. Are we those who accept God’s word, and do it? – **James 1:19-25**
		1. **(v. 19)** – willingness to listen.
		2. **(v. 20)** – not wrathful when directed by God. (As if not liking His command)
		3. **(v. 21)** – Rather, humbly accepting and submitting to it. (meekness – disposition which accepts God’s dealings as good, and therefore without disputing or resisting.)
		4. **(vv. 22-25)** – then acting upon that word in obedience.
20. Giving and Praise
21. **1 Kings 10:6-12** – When the Queen came to understand the wisdom of Solomon to be true, and from the Lord, she acknowledged it, and gave him gifts.
22. Do we respond to the wisdom offered by One greater than Solomon with praise, thanksgiving, and a giving of ourselves?
	1. **Romans 11:33-36** – giving the God the praise that is due for His vast wisdom.
	2. **1 Thessalonians 5:16-18; Colossians 3:17** – do we give thanks to God for His revelation.
	3. **John 15:14-15** – do we respond to Jesus as a friend by keeping His commands He disclosed to us as friends?
	4. **Romans 12:1-2** – giving ourselves as a living sacrifice in response to the mercies of God.

**Conclusion**

1. The Queen of Sheba stands as an example to follow, especially as the wisdom offered her by Solomon pales in comparison to the wisdom of Christ. (**cf. 1 Corinthians 1:30-31** – became for us wisdom)
2. Will we be shown as those who have responded to Jesus as we should have, or will the Queen of the South rise up in judgment and condemn us with her own actions?