

Questions for Reflection and Discussion

Matthew 12:38-50

Getting Started

What makes a house a home?

Digging In

1. **Read Matthew 12:38-45.** What did the religious leaders ask Jesus to do? Why? Do you think their request was sincere? Why or why not?
2. In what sense was that generation *wicked and adulterous*? (v. 39)
3. In the first part of his answer, Jesus says that no sign will be given to them except for the sign of the prophet Jonah. What sign is Jesus talking about? (vv. 39-40)
4. Why would *this generation* be judged by the men of Nineveh?
5. Why would they be judged by the Queen of the South?
6. Paraphrase the parable in vv. 43-45. How does Jesus use this parable to warn his listeners of the danger of stopping short of full commitment to him?
7. What is the relevance of this parable to us today? How does it illustrate the danger of substituting **religion** for **relationship**?
8. **Read Matthew 12:46-50.** Why did Jesus' mother and brothers want to speak to him? (Cf. Mark 3:20-21,31-35)
9. How did Jesus respond to their request? Summarize his answer in your own words.
10. We know that Jesus was **not** teaching that we shouldn't honor our parents. What **did** he mean?



Getting Personal

- Would you say that your Christianity is more a matter of religion or relationship? Why?
- Jesus said that the members of his family were those who do the will of his Father. To what extent does obedience to God's will characterize your life?