Introduction

Jesus went around doing so much good and yet he was falsely attacked by his opponents. In this passage, Jesus answers the charges of his enemies. There are three questions that people often ask when they read this passage.

- What is the unforgiveable sin?
- What is the sign of Jonah?
- How can I know if I am in Jesus’ family?

I. Jesus’ Miracles Are a Proof of His Identity. Matthew 12:22-29

“Could this be the Son of David?” The Pharisees said no. “It is only by Beelzebub, the prince of demons, that this fellow drives out demons.”

Jesus shows how illogical their claim is.

- A kingdom divided against itself will not stand.
- If I cast the demons out by Satan, by whom do your people do it?
- If I drive them out by the Spirit of God, then the kingdom has come upon you and I am the Messiah.

II. To Reject Jesus Is the Unforgiveable Sin. Matthew 12:30-37

Jesus calls for a decision. “He who is not with me is against me.”

Consider how serious this decision is. There is a sin that cannot be forgiven.
The blasphemy of the Holy Spirit is a willful rejection of the Holy Spirit’s work in pointing to Christ and slanderously attributing to Satan the work of God.

What is ironic is that the Pharisees accused Jesus of blasphemy because he claimed to be God when they were the ones who were guilty of blasphemy by rejecting the witness of the Spirit.

III. THE ULTIMATE PROOF THAT JESUS IS THE MESSIAH IS HIS DEATH AND RESURRECTION. MATTHEW 12:38-45

“A wicked and adulterous generation asks for a miraculous sign.”
No sign will be given except the sign of Jonah.

What is the sign of Jonah?
It is the sign of Jesus’ death and resurrection.
The men of Nineveh repented at the preaching of Jonah and they will rise up and condemn this generation because “one greater than Jonah is here.”
“And now, One greater than Solomon is here.”

These are powerful statements Jesus is making. He is claiming to be:
• Greater than Jonah, the prophet.
• Greater than Solomon, Israel’s wisest king.
• Greater than David, Israel’s greatest king.
• Greater than the Temple and the priests.
• Greater than the Sabbath.

Jesus gives another sober warning in verses 43-45. It is one of the clearest statements on how a demon works.
Don’t put off your decision. Come to Christ today.
IV. All who truly believe in Jesus are part of His family.
Matthew 12:46-50

“Your family is outside wanting to speak with you.”

They thought he was out of his mind. Mark 3:21
“Who is my mother and who are my brothers?”
All who do the will of my Father in heaven.

What is his will for us?
“That we believe in the one he has sent.” John 6:29
Obedience is the proof that our faith is genuine.
“Not everyone who says to me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ will enter the kingdom of heaven, but only he who does the will of my Father who is in heaven.” Matthew 7:21

Conclusion
In Matthew’s gospel there are three groups of people.

• The crowds are those who are interested in Jesus but not committed. They are not saved.
• The Pharisees, the religious leaders and secular authorities are those who rejected Jesus. They are guilty of an unpardonable sin.
• The disciples are those who hear and obey and believe that Jesus is Lord and Savior and King! They are his true family.