

sermon study -Matthew 12:38-50 -willingly ignorant

**Problem:**

Read Proverbs 26:1-12. How bad is a fool according to this section of Scripture? How much worse than are the people from Romans 1:18-23 and 2 Timothy 4:3-4; Proverbs 26:12?

we are tasked to make disciples in an unwilling, unregenerate, unbelieving generation.

**CPT/Main Idea:**

There is no evidence that will convict an unwilling heart (Matthew 12:38-42)

- Verses 38-39 see Jesus saying no to the Pharisees' request for a sign. Read Matthew 12:15; Mark 8:12 and John 12:35-36 to answer why He would deny this request.
- What came before this in the chapter that makes this request ridiculous?
- Read Luke 16:19-31 and answer why the Resurrection would not be a sign for them.
- notice that for the resurrection to be in view at all it implies their rejection and murder of Him.
- In verse 41 Jesus said that something greater than Jonah is here. Read Jonah 3. How does the response of these gentiles rebuke them?
- In verse 42 Jesus said that something greater than Solomon is here. Read 1 Kings 10:1-5. How does the response of this gentile rebuke them?

There is no reformation that will change an unregenerate heart (Matthew 12:43-45)

- Read 2 Peter 2:17-22. Why is self help programming a bad idea for the unregenerate?

there is no intimacy that will circumvent an unbelieving heart (Matthew 12:46-50)

- Read Matthew 11:1-6. Who doubted Jesus?
- Read Matthew 11:20-24. Who despised and ignored His call to repentance?
- Read Matthew 12:9-14. Who hated Him and wanted to destroy Him? Why is this ironic?
- Read Mark 3:20-21 and John 7:1-5. What is so significant about His mother and brothers coming at this point?
- Verse 50 says that whoever does the will of Jesus' Father in Heaven is His family. Read John 6:26-30, 40 to answer what His will is in this context.
- Read Matthew 11:28-30. Who is invited to be a part of this family?

**Implication:**

the wrong response to the unwilling is evidence

the wrong response to the unregenerate is a self improvement program

the wrong response to the unbelieving is intimacy

**Application:**

- proof is only pertinent to the willing so stop giving evidence to the unwilling  
read the following article and discuss:

<http://www.cmf.org.uk/publications/content.asp?context=article&id=1315>

- reformation is only permanent in the regenerate so stop giving self help books to the unregenerate

read the following articles and discuss:

<http://madewithpurpose.wordpress.com/tag/self-help-vs-christianity/>

<http://www.reformation21.org/shelf-life/christless-christianity-the-alternative-gospel-of-the-american-church.php>

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-real intimacy is only possible for the believing so stop giving intimacy to the unbeliever-  
unequally yoked

read the following article and discuss if time permits:

<http://www.gty.org/resources/sermons/47-44>

**Epilogue**

God gave evidence to Thomas (John 20:24-29) because he was willing to believe. read Psalm 19:1. Are you?