

Proclamation of the Kingdom - 2RESPONSES TO THE MESSAGE OF THE KINGDOM

Jesus had gone to all the towns and villages in Palestine proclaiming the Good News of the Kingdom. He also sent His twelve disciples out to spread the same message. How did the people respond? During the first two years of His ministry Jesus was popular among the crowds, but during His last year there was increasing opposition. We see this in Matthew 11 onwards. In this study we will look at the responses of different people. This will help us understand why people respond differently when we share the Good News to them today!

1. RESPONSE OF JOHN THE BAPTIST: \_\_\_\_\_

Matthew 11:2-6

Discuss

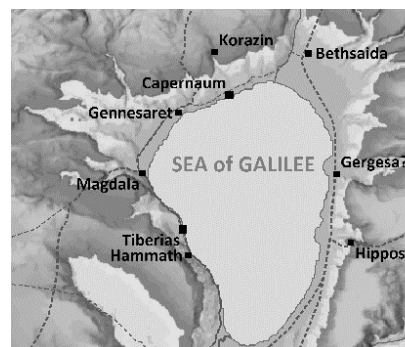
What was John's response to Jesus?  
John was the one who 'prepared the way' for Jesus.  
Why do you think he asked this question?

2. RESPONSE OF KORIZIN AND BETHSAIDA: \_\_\_\_\_

Matthew 11:20-24

Discuss

What was the response of these cities?  
What do these verses teach us about  
God's Judgment?

3. RESPONSE OF THE PHARISEES: \_\_\_\_\_

Discuss

What was the response of the Pharisees in the following three incidents?

a.) Matthew 12:1-2, 9-14b.) Matthew 12:22, 24-28

How can we know what is the difference between the work of the Holy Spirit and the work of Satan? Matthew 11:33-37

c.) Matthew 12:38-41

Sometimes people says to us, "How can you say your God is the true God? Why doesn't He heal that sick person." Then I will believe." How can you answer this question?

4. RESPONSE OF THE CROWDS: \_\_\_\_\_

Matthew 12:15-16, 22-23



**Discuss**

What was the response of the crowds to Jesus' message?

RESPONSES: THE PARABLE OF THE SOWER

Matthew 13:1-23



**Discuss**

What are the responses to the message of the Kingdom in this parable that Jesus told? See v18-23



Hard path v19

This was like the Pharisees.



Rocky places v20-21

This was like the crowds.



Thorny ground v22

This was like the others among the crowds.



Good soil v23

This was like the disciples.

Jesus told this parable to the large crowds who gathered by the lake (13:1), but He only explained it to the disciples. When Jesus had sent them out to proclaim the Good News they would have met with different responses too. And we will too! What an encouragement to know that Jesus understood this, and to know that there will also be those who will respond and bear fruit. Let's press on and proclaim the message of the Kingdom.