

Sermon Discussion Questions – June 4, 2023
“Filled with the Fullness of WHAT?” - Matthew 12.38-46

12.38-42

- Some of the scribes and Pharisees ask Jesus for a sign (12.38). What do you think they're after? Can you identify times or ways that you approach Jesus in this same way?
- What's your reaction to how Jesus responds to them? Why do you think he responds this way?
- What exactly does Jesus mean by saying the only sign their generation will receive is the sign of Jonah?
- As you read Jesus' interaction with the scribes and Pharisees in 12.38-42, how are you convicted? When you pray together, confess the sin you are convicted of (James 5.16).
- How do Jesus' words here encourage you? Pray that, too!
- Chuck quoted Blaise Pascal: "The heart has reasons the mind knows nothing about." What are some examples of how the desires of your heart shape how you respond to Jesus, both negatively and positively?
- What are some concrete things we could do to let Jesus change our inner, heart desires? In other words, what ways might we need to change or what obstacles might we need to remove?
- What are some things about Jesus and the Christian faith that are hard for you to believe (that might make you want a sign)? If the resurrection of Jesus is absolutely certain to you, how does that impact other doubts you might have?

12.43-45

- How is Jesus further rebuking the Pharisees (and us!) through his story about this unclean spirit?
- Jesus describes a house that is "empty, swept and put in order". In what ways can our lives/persons be like this house?
- How might people who are very committed to the Bible and right theology be more prone to being like this house?

12.46-50

- What is Jesus offering to us here? What's your reaction to this offer?
- Would you describe your family of origin as healthy, mixed or dysfunctional? How does that shape your reaction to Jesus' offer?
- If we ARE in fact Jesus' family, how might we need to treat each other differently than we currently do, or operate as a church differently? What would you like to see change?