Mat 11:9-11 *"But what did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and one who is more than a prophet. (10) "This is the one about whom it is written, 'BEHOLD, I SEND MY MESSENGER AHEAD OF YOU, WHO WILL PREPARE YOUR WAY BEFORE YOU.' (11) "Truly I say to you, among those born of women there has not arisen anyone greater than John the Baptist! Yet the one who is least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he.*

Mat 11:14 *"And if you are willing to accept it, John himself is Elijah who was to come.*

Mal 4:5-6 “Behold, I will send you Elijah the prophet before the great and awesome day of the LORD comes. (6) And he will turn the hearts of fathers to their children and the hearts of children to their fathers, lest I come and strike the land with a decree of utter destruction.”

Mat *11:16-20 "But to what shall I compare this generation? It is like children sitting in the market places, who call out to the other children, (17) and say, 'We played the flute for you, and you did not dance; we sang a dirge, and you did not mourn.' (18) "For John came neither eating nor drinking, and they say, 'He has a demon!' (19) "The Son of Man came eating and drinking, and they say, 'Behold, a gluttonous man and a drunkard, a friend of tax collectors and sinners!' Yet wisdom is vindicated by her deeds." (20) Then He began to denounce the cities in which most of His miracles were done, because they did not repent.*

Jesus asks them if they are like children who will not play the game as they desire.

John came neither eating nor drinking – Luk 1:15 "For he will be great in the sight of the Lord; and he will drink no wine or liquor, and he will be filled with the Holy Spirit while yet in his mother's womb.

Num 6:3 he shall abstain from wine and strong drink; he shall drink no vinegar, whether made from wine or strong drink, nor shall he drink any grape juice nor eat fresh or dried grapes.

Mat 11:20 *Then He began to denounce the cities in which most of His miracles were done, because they did not repent.*

Chorazin, Bethsaida, Capernaum
it will be worse these than for Tyre, Sydon (cities of the Gentiles), Sodom (where homosexuals tried to take God's messengers and which was destroyed by fire).

Mat 11:25-30 *At that time Jesus said, "I praise You, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, that You have hidden these things from the wise and intelligent and have revealed them to infants. (26) "Yes, Father, for this way was well-pleasing in Your sight. (27) "All things have been handed over to Me by My Father; and no one knows the Son except the Father; nor does anyone know the Father except the Son, and anyone to whom the Son wills to reveal Him.*

Those who follow Jesus will not be the wise and the mighty, but the humble who seek His word

Mat 11:28-30 *"Come to Me, all who are weary and heavy-laden, and I will give you rest. (29) "Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and YOU WILL FIND REST FOR YOUR SOULS. (30) "For My yoke is easy and My burden is light.“*

Jesus shows us the way to true rest.

Mat 12:1-2 *At that time Jesus went through the grainfields on the Sabbath, and His disciples became hungry and began to pick the heads of grain and eat. (2) But when the Pharisees saw this, they said to Him, "Look, Your disciples do what is not lawful to do on a Sabbath."*

Mat 12:5-8 *"Or have you not read in the Law, that on the Sabbath the priests in the temple break the Sabbath and are innocent? (6) "But I say to you that something greater than the temple is here. (7) "But if you had known what this means, 'I DESIRE COMPASSION, AND NOT A SACRIFICE,' you would not have condemned the innocent. (8) "For the Son of Man is Lord of the Sabbath."*

Jesus illustrates the truth of the LOM.

Mat 12:10-12 *And a man was there whose hand was withered. And they questioned Jesus, asking, "Is it lawful to heal on the Sabbath?“– so that they might accuse Him. (11) And He said to them, "What man is there among you who has a sheep, and if it falls into a pit on the Sabbath, will he not take hold of it and lift it out? (12) "How much more valuable then is a man than a sheep! So then, it is lawful to do good on the Sabbath."*

Mat 12:21 *"AND IN HIS NAME THE GENTILES WILL HOPE."*

Jesus foretells the coming of the gospel to the Gentiles – Cornelius in Acts 10-11

Mat 12:22-24 *Then a demon-possessed man who was blind and mute was brought to Jesus, and He healed him, so that the mute man spoke and saw. (23) All the crowds were amazed, and were saying, "This man cannot be the Son of David, can he?" (24) But when the Pharisees heard this, they said, "This man casts out demons only by Beelzebul the ruler of the demons.“*

<u>The sin of the Pharisees was to say that a miracle of God was done by the power of Satan.</u>

Mat 12:25-28 *And knowing their thoughts Jesus said to them, "Any kingdom divided against itself is laid waste; and any city or house divided against itself will not stand. (26) "If Satan casts out Satan, he is divided against himself; how then will his kingdom stand? (27) "If I by Beelzebul cast out demons, by whom do your sons cast them out? For this reason they will be your judges. (28) "But if I cast out demons by the Spirit of God, then the kingdom of God has come upon you.*

The unpardonable sin!

Mat 12:31-32 *"Therefore I say to you, any sin and blasphemy shall be forgiven people, but blasphemy against the Spirit shall not be forgiven. (32) "Whoever speaks a word against the Son of Man, it shall be forgiven him; but whoever speaks against the Holy Spirit, it shall not be forgiven him, either in this age or in the age to come.*

<u>The sin of the Pharisees was to say that a miracle of God was done by the power of Satan.</u>

1Jn 5:16 If anyone sees his brother committing a sin not leading to death, he shall ask, and God will give him life—to those who commit sins that do not lead to death. There is sin that leads to death; I do not say that one should pray for that. 17 All wrongdoing is sin, but there is sin that does not lead to death. 18 We know that everyone who has been born of God does not keep on sinning, but he who was born of God protects him, and the evil one does not touch him.

Mat 12:38-41 *Then some of the scribes and Pharisees said to Him, "Teacher, we want to see a sign from You." (39) But He answered and said to them, "An evil and adulterous generation craves for a sign; and yet no sign will be given to it but the sign of Jonah the prophet; (40) for just as JONAH WAS THREE DAYS AND THREE NIGHTS IN THE BELLY OF THE SEA MONSTER, so will the Son of Man be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth. (41) "The men of Nineveh will stand up with this generation at the judgment, and will condemn it because they repented at the preaching of Jonah; and behold, something greater than Jonah is here.*

How long would Jesus be in the grave?

Est 4:16-17 "Go, assemble all the Jews who are found in Susa, and fast for me; do not eat or drink for three days, night or day. I and my maidens also will fast in the same way. And thus I will go in to the king, which is not according to the law; and if I perish, I perish." (17) So Mordecai went away and did just as Esther had commanded him.

Est 5:1 Now it came about on the third day that Esther put on her royal robes and stood in the inner court of the king's palace in front of the king's rooms, and the king was sitting on his royal throne in the throne room, opposite the entrance to the palace

1Ki 12:5 Then he said to them, "Depart for three days, then return to me." So the people departed.

1Ki 12:12 Then Jeroboam and all the people came to Rehoboam on the third day as the king had directed, saying, "Return to me on the third day."

Jesus rose “on the third day” (Mat 16:21), not “on the fourth day.” It is just a fuller form for “after three days” (Mar 8:31; Mar 10:34).

It is simply the way the Jews counted time.

Mat 12:46-47 *While He was still speaking to the crowds, behold, His mother and brothers were standing outside, seeking to speak to Him. (47) Someone said to Him, "Behold, Your mother and Your brothers are standing outside seeking to speak to You.“*

Jesus had brothers and sisters on earth and Mary was their mother

Mat 1:24-25 When Joseph woke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him: he took his wife, (25) but knew her not until she had given birth to a son. And he called his name Jesus.

Mat 13:55-56 "Is not this the carpenter's son? Is not His mother called Mary, and His brothers, James and Joseph and Simon and Judas? (56) "And His sisters, are they not all with us? Where then did this man get all these things?"