

Matthew 12:15-37

- **REVIEW...**

- o **FIRST** - The Presentation of the King – **Matthew 1-7**
- o **SECOND** – The Ministry of the King – **Matthew 8-18**
- o The Sabbath Day...
 - Jesus and his DISCIPLES were walking through a FIELD on the SABBATH...
 - The DISCIPLES were HUNGRY - so they began to pick the CORN and eat it...
 - The PHARISEES complained to Jesus because WORKING was not allowed on the Sabbath...
 - But the Jews had made the SABBATH hard with MAN made rules [39 do nots]
 - Jesus showed them the SABBATH was not a day to follow RULES - it was a day to KNOW God...
 - The TRUE rest was not in the DAY [shadow] - it was found in Jesus!
- o Breaking the Sabbath...
 - Jesus went into their Synagogue - and saw a man with a withered hand...
 - The PHARISEES challenged Him if it was RIGHT to HEAL on the SABBATH...
 - But Jesus pointed out their hypocrisy - they would help a SHEEP - how much more a MAN...
 - So YES - it was RIGHT to do GOOD on the SABBATH - and He healed the man...
 - This ENRAGED the PHARISEES - and they began to plot how to KILL Jesus!

- **1ST – LAYING LOW... vs. 15-22**

- o 1st - Great Multitudes... vs. 15
 - Walking away...
 - When Jesus knew [they wanted to kill Him] - He withdrew from there.
 - Jesus KNEW He had pushed the PHARISEES to a breaking point...
 - He was threatening their POWER by challenging their RULES...
 - But it was NOT His time [crucifixion] - so He walked away to try and DEFUSE the tension!
 - Real power...
 - [But] great multitudes followed [Jesus] - and He healed them all!
 - The PHARISEES refused to HELP a man because of their SABBATH rules...
 - But Jesus broke the RULES - because He wanted to HELP the man...
 - Therefore a LOT of people ended up following Jesus...
 - Because He was NOT giving them EMPTY religion - He was CHANGING lives...
 - And He had compassion on them - and HEALED [θεραπεύω] them ALL [πᾶς]!
 - People walk away from church - when all they hear is empty RULES...
 - But people will come to Jesus - when they see CHANGED lives!
- o 2nd - Tell no one... vs. 16-21
 - Fulfilling prophecy... vs. 16-17
 - [Jesus] warned them not to make Him known.
 - That it might be fulfilled which was spoken by Isaiah the prophet!
 - Jesus urged the people to NOT talk [ἐπιτιμάω] about what He had done...
 - Not wanting to draw too much attention from the already agitated PHARISEES...
 - But this also fulfilled the PROPHECY of the prophet - **Isaiah 41:1-4**
 - The Trinity... vs. 18
 - Behold! My Servant whom I have chosen. My Beloved in whom My soul is well pleased.
 - I will put My Spirit upon Him - and He will declare justice to the Gentiles!
 - The FATHER speaking about His SERVANT [Son] whom He LOVES [ἀγαπητός]
 - Declares He would put His SPIRIT [πνεῦμα] on Him...
 - So He can bring the MESSAGE [ἀπαγγέλλω] of JUDGEMENT [κρίσις] to the NATIONS [ἔθνος]

- There are those who argue the TRINITY is not in the Old Testament...
- While it is true the WORD is not used - the description of the nature of God certainly is...
- It is one of the ESSENTIAL doctrines of salvation [separates denomination from cult]
- There is ONE God in THREE persons: the Father who sent the Son in the power of the Spirit!
- No arguments... vs. 19
 - He will not quarrel nor cry out - nor will anyone hear His voice in the streets!
 - The SERVANT [Jesus] did NOT come arguing to make His point...
 - He did NOT stand in the streets yelling to get attention...
 - He did NOT need to prove who He was with WORDS - He used ACTIONS!
 - We are NEVER going to ARGUE anyone into the Kingdom of God...
 - All we are going to do if we YELL on the streets - is annoy people...
 - The POWER of the Gospel is seen in what we DO - people seeing we are DIFFERENT!
- Dying ember... vs. 20
 - A bruised reed He will not break - and smoking flax He will not quench!
 - The SERVANT [Jesus] did NOT harm those He came to help!
 - If we are BRUISED – because of poor choices and sin...
 - Jesus will always take us in - He heals the broken hearted...
 - If we just have a wisp of smoke for God in us – barely a hint of a flame left...
 - Jesus does NOT put us out – He takes that little flame and fans it to a fire!
- Victory... vs. 20-21
 - Till He sends forth justice to victory - and in His name Gentiles will trust!
 - The SERVANT [Jesus] continued bringing the TRUTH [ἡ ἀλήθεια] - **Isaiah 42:3**
 - UNTIL He gave the VICTORY - and the NATIONS [ἔθνος] put their hope in His NAME!
 - The TRUTH Jesus came to give - was that SIN had to be JUDGED [κρίσις]
 - There is only ONE way to pay for sin - the WAGES of SIN is death - **Romans 6:23**
 - But Jesus came to give us VICTORY [νίκος] - by PAYING our debt for us...
 - And anyone [ἕθνος] who puts their HOPE [ἐλπίζω] in His name - will be SAVED!
 - **Acts 4:12** - "There is no other name under heaven... by which we must be saved."
- o 3rd - Blind and Mute... vs. 22
 - Then one was brought to Him who was demon-possessed - blind and mute.
 - [Jesus] healed him - so that the blind and mute man both spoke and saw!
 - One of the men the people brought [passive] to Jesus to heal - was POSSESSED [δαιμονίζομαι]
 - As a RESULT - the man was both BLIND and DEAF [mute]
 - The main goal of satan - it to keep people from SEEING and HEARING Jesus...
 - He does it by keeping people DISTRACTED - they do NOT know they are BLIND and DEAF...
 - He uses SOCIAL media - ENTERTAINMENT - and AMBITION [money]
 - People are so caught up in this LIFE - they never stop to ask about ETERNITY!
 - **II Corinthians 4:4** - "Whose minds the god of this age has blinded - who do not believe lest the light of the gospel... should shine on them."
- 2ND – CASTING OUT DEMONS... vs. 22-29
 - o 1st - Kingdom Divided... vs. 23-26
 - Son of David... vs. 23
 - All the multitudes were amazed and said: Could this be the Son of David?
 - When the people SAW the MIRACLE they were [imperfect] SHAKEN [ἐξίστημι]
 - And they began to SAY [imperfect] - might this be [indicative] the Son of David...
 - Son of David - one of the TITLES given for the MESSIAH - **II Samuel 7:11**
 - Beelzebub... vs. 24

- Now when the Pharisees heard it they said:
- This fellow does not cast out demons except by Beelzebub - the ruler of the demons!
- The moment [aorist] the PHARISEES heard the people calling Jesus the MESSIAH...
- The quickly corrected them - Jesus cast out demons by BEELZEBUB...
- BEELZEBUB [בְּעֶלְזְבוּב] - the LORD of the FLIES [leader of demons] another name for satan!
- God gave the name BEELZEBUB to the gods of the Philistines as an insult - **II Kings 1:2**
- FLIES are synonymous with MANURE – they hang around piles of it...
- BEELZEBUB was a pile of a manure – and his worshipers the FLIES that stuck to him!
- Knowing the heart... vs. 25
 - Jesus knew their thoughts - and said to them:
 - Jesus KNEW [perfect] their thoughts - He saw the MOTIVE behind their words...
 - They did NOT believe that Jesus was casting out demons by the power of satan...
 - They were just trying to discredit Jesus - because He threatened THEIR power...
 - In response to the PHARISEES - Jesus gave them THREE reasons they were WRONG!
- Cannot Stand... vs. 25-26
 - Every kingdom divided against itself is brought to desolation.
 - Every city or house divided against itself will not stand.
 - If Satan casts out Satan - he is divided against himself. How then will his kingdom stand?
 - Any [παῖς] NATION [βασιλεία] that splits into factions [μερίζω] - will end up in a CIVIL war...
 - Any [παῖς] HOUSE [οἰκία] that splits into factions [μερίζω] - will NOT be able to STAND...
 - Therefore - if satan [Σατανᾶς] is casting himself out - he is DIVIDED [μερίζω]
 - And his KINGDOM [βασιλεία] at war with itself - would NOT be able to STAND!
 - When I was young - there was a LOT of debate about WORSHIP music...
 - There were those who argued that DRUMS were an instrument of satan...
 - He was the worship leader in heaven they argued - **Ezekiel 28:13**
 - But what they could never answer - is why would satan want us to worship God!
 - Whenever people do NOT like something - the easy argument is it is NOT from God...
 - People will go so far as to blame it on the ENEMY...
 - But if we stop and think about it - the argument often makes no SENSE!
- o 2nd - The sons... vs. 27
 - If I cast out demons by Beelzebub - by whom do your sons cast them out?
 - Therefore they shall be your judges!
 - SECOND - if Jesus cast out DEMONS by BEELZEBUB - what name did their SONS use...
 - Their SONS knew the ONLY power was in Jesus name - so they would JUDGE the Fathers!
 - When the SEVEN sons of Sceva [a priest] - tried to cast out a DEMON - **Acts 19:15**
 - They cast him out in the name of Jesus whom Paul preaches...
 - But the spirt answer: Jesus I know - and Paul I know - but who are you?
 - If I had a picture of a police officer in my house - a thief would not be afraid...
 - But if I had the officer living in my house - the thief would NOT come in...
 - The power over the ENEMY is NOT just in knowing the name of Jesus...
 - It comes from having the LORD make His home in our HEART!
- o 3rd - Spirit of God... vs. 28-29
 - Kingdom of God... vs. 28
 - If I cast out demons by the Spirit of God - surely the kingdom of God has come upon you!
 - SINCE [indicative] Jesus cast out DEMONS by the power of the Holy SPIRIT [πνεῦμα]
 - It meant the KINGDOM of God had come to the PHARISEES!
 - Strong Man... vs. 29

- How can one enter a strong mans house and plunder his goods.
- Unless he first binds the strong man? And then he will plunder his house!
- Satan [strong man] would NEVER let someone go free if he has control [possessed]
- Someone STRONGER has to first come in and BIND him...
- Only THEN can that PERSON be SNATCHED away [ἁρπάζω] - RAPTURED!
- I sometimes get asked if people still get possessed by demons today...
- There is no reason to think the tactics of the enemy have changed...
- Notice that the possession of this man resulted in physical infirmities [blind and mute]
- It is likely that many who are diagnosed as CRAZY or SICK - have a spiritual problem!
- But we as believers have NOTHING to fear from the enemy...
- Because Jesus came to set us free [STRONGER] - the Spirit is within us - we are untouchable!
- **Luke 10:19** - "I give you the authority... over all the power of the enemy - and nothing shall by any means hurt you."

• 3RD - REJECTING THE SPIRIT... vs. 30-32

o 1st - No middle... vs. 30

- He who is not with Me is against Me - and he who does not gather with Me scatters abroad!
- In a TWIST - Jesus turns the accusation against the PHARISEES...
- Since He was on the side of GOD - because He was casting out the ENEMY...
- ANYONE who was NOT with Him - must be on the side of the ENEMY...
- The PHARISEES were NOT drawing people to God - they were trying to SCATTER them!
- SCATTER [σκοπίζω] - where we get the word SCORPION...
- I had a friend who was traveling in BELIZE on a missions trip...
- Some kids thought it would be funny to throw a SCORPION on his lap [no stinger]
- You have never seen someone jump up and run so fast [scatter]!
- There is NO middle ground when it comes to Jesus...
- Do we encourage people to look to the LORD - confidently declare He is the answer...
- Or are we PLAYING games - coming to church but looking to the WORLD!
- **James 4:4** - "To be a friend of the world... makes [us] an enemy of God." [NLT]

o 2nd - Unforgivable sin... vs. 31-32

- Every other sin... vs. 31
 - Therefore I say to you - every sin and blasphemy will be forgiven men!
 - FIRST - Jesus gives us an incredible HOPE...
 - ALL [πᾶς] kinds of SIN [ἁμαρτία] can be FORGIVEN [indicative]!
 - If we ever wonder if God can FORGIVE us - the answer is YES...
 - It does NOT matter what our SIN is - or HOW many times we have failed...
 - The GRACE of God is greater than our SIN - and He can SAVE us!
 - **Romans 5:20** - "Where sin abounded - grace abounded much more!"
- Blasphemy... vs. 31-32
 - The blasphemy against the Spirit will not be forgiven men.
 - Anyone who speaks a word against the Son of Man - it will be forgiven him.
 - Whoever speaks against the Holy Spirit - it will not be forgiven him.
 - Either in this age or in the age to come!
 - There is ONE exception - the BLASPHEMY of the Holy Spirit...
 - The PHARISEES could say what they wanted about Jesus - it could be FORGIVEN...
 - BUT - whoever spoke a word AGAINST the HOLY [ἅγιος] Spirit - would NOT be FORGIVEN!
 - The PHARISEE knew that Jesus was from God - but He threatened their power...
 - Therefore They hardened their hearts to the TRUTH - committing the UNFORGIVABLE sin!
 - Knowing the TRUTH about Jesus - and still REJECTING Him - is UNFORGIVABLE...

- Because there is ONE hope of salvation for us – there is only ONE way to heaven...
- And if we REJECT the only answer - there is no other way to be FORGIVEN!

● 4TH - KNOWN BY FRUIT... vs. 33-37

o 1st - Good or Bad... vs. 33

- Either make the tree good and its fruit good.
- Or else make the tree bad and its fruit bad. For a tree is known by its fruit!
- For the SECOND time Jesus teaches about FRUIT - **Matthew 7:15-20**
- A GOOD tree [καλός] - will have GOOD [καλός] external fruit...
- And a BAD tree [σαπρός] - will have BAD [σαπρός] external fruit...
- Therefore - we will KNOW [γινώσκω] who kind of tree it is by the FRUIT!
- If a tree has a SIGN that says – KALAMANSI...
- But we clearly see there are ORANGES growing on the branches...
- Then regardless of what the sign SAYS – it is for sure an ORANGE tree!
- The point is POWERFUL – FRUIT does NOT lie...
- No matter what a person SAYS – they can CLAIM to be a CHRISTIAN...
- But all we have to do is look at their FRUIT – and we will see if what they say is TRUE!

o 2nd - Heart Check... vs. 34-35

- The Serpent... vs. 34
 - Brood of vipers! How can you being evil - speak good things?
 - The PHARISEES were a generation [from] of VIPERS – **Matthew 3:7**
 - Connecting them to the SERPENT [satan] - **Genesis 3:1**
 - And the evidence of WHO they belonged to - was seen in their WORDS!
- Look at the words... vs. 35
 - For out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaks!
 - A good man out of the good treasure of his heart brings forth good things.
 - An evil man out of the evil treasure brings forth evil things!
 - Anyone who is GOOD [ἀγαθός] - would say GOOD [ἀγαθός] things...
 - But anyone who is EVIL [πονηρός] - will say EVIL [πονηρός] things...
 - Because whatever is in the HEART - will come out [ἐκ] of the MOUTH...
 - Therefore - the PHARISEES lacked the POWER [δύναμαι] to say GOOD [ἀγαθός]
 - Because they were they were EVIL [πονηρός] - they were of satan!
 - **John 8:44** - “You are of your father the devil and the desires of your father you want to do.”
 - We cannot see the HEART - we do NOT know the MOTIVE...
 - But what we can see if what they SAY - their mouth is a window into their soul...
 - If we want to KNOW who someone is - listen to what they WORDS!

o 3rd - Judgment... vs. 36-37

- I say to you for every idle word men speak - they will give account of it in the day of judgment.
- For by your words you will be justified - and by your words you will be condemned!
- Words MATTER - because we will have to answer for EVERY one...
- EVERY [πᾶς] careless word spoken - we will have to PAY for [debt] on the JUDGEMENT day...
- From our WORDS we will either be SAVED [passive] or CONDEMNED [indicative]!
- WORDS have the POWER to express our FAITH - **Romans 10:9**
- But WORDS also have the POWER to reveal a wicked heart [Pharisees]
- Do not throw out words carelessly - it ends up costing us dearly...
- Better to think first about what we are going to say - the consequence of our words...
- It is easy to say something - it is almost impossible to take our words back!
- **Ephesians 4:29** – “Let no corrupt word proceed out of your mouth...”