

Matthew 12c

It's That Pivotal Moment

Thank you, Tom!!

For the message on **Stewardship**

**This passage in Matthew is the
Pivotal Moment in his narrative...**

Matthew 12:22

Then one was brought to Him who was demon-possessed, blind and mute; and He healed him, so that the blind and mute man both spoke and saw. ²³ And all the multitudes were amazed and said, "***Could this be the Son of David?***"

"Son of David?"

Look at God's promise to David...

2 Samuel 7:12

"When your days are fulfilled and you rest with your fathers, I will set up **your seed** after you, **who will come from your body**, and I will establish his kingdom. ¹³ He shall build a house for My name, and I will establish the throne of his kingdom forever.

¹⁴ ***I will be his Father, and he shall be My son.***

"YOUR Seed" = Son of David

But then he says...

"I (God) will be His father, and He shall be My Son.

The Son of David = The Son of God

Remember Jesus' Baptism?

Matthew 3:17

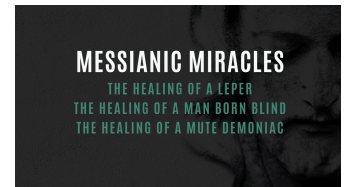
And suddenly a voice *came* from heaven, saying,

"This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased."

Why the sudden interest?

Apparently, by this point, there were several miracles that, people believed, could only be achieved by the Messiah.

- The Healing of a **Leper**
- The Healing of a **Man Born Blind**
- The Healing of a **Mute Demoniac**



Why a MUTE Demoniac?

Exorcism required a very specific ritual¹ (Fruchtenbaum)

1. **Establish communication** with the demon...
2. **Find out the demon's name.**
3. **Cast out** the demon... (Mark 5)

If the Demoniac was mute, the process could not proceed.

Unless you were the Messiah!

**Because the MESSIAH'S AUTHORITY
could work past the demoniac's inability to speak.**

Look at their reaction!

"Could this be the Son of David?"

Matthew 12:24

Now when the Pharisees heard it they said,

"This fellow does not cast out demons except by **Beelzebub**, the ruler of the demons."

This is their only recourse!

**They claim that the Demon was responding,
not to the Authority of God, but to the authority of
the commander of Demons**

Matthew 12:25

But Jesus knew their thoughts, and said to them: "Every kingdom divided against itself is brought to desolation, and every 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 And if I cast out demons by Beelzebub, by whom do your sons cast them out? Therefore they shall be your judges.²⁸ But if I cast out demons by the Spirit of God, surely the kingdom of God has come upon you.

¹ http://www.messianicassociation.org/ezone48-af-three-messianic-miracles.htm#C._The_Jewish_Response

Basically:

Sure, it's possible, but no battle is won by losing ground.

Why would Satan attempt to win by losing ground?

You're taking a BIG GAMBLE

- ***Either... I am working by the Power of Satan***
- ***Or... I am working by the Spirit of God***

Make up your mind!

Matthew 12:29

Or how can one enter a strong man's house and plunder his goods, unless he first binds the strong man? And then he will plunder his house. ³⁰ ***He who is not with Me is against Me***, and he who does not gather with Me scatters abroad.

I'm here to bind the one who has taken Israel

- You can fight **WITH** me **AGAINST** Satan, or...
- You can fight **AGAINST** me **WITH** Satan

Make up your mind!

Matthew 12:31 (Mark 3:28–30)

"Therefore I say to you, **every sin and blasphemy will be forgiven men**, but the **blasphemy against the Spirit will not be forgiven men**. ³² Anyone who speaks a word against the Son of Man, it will be forgiven him; but **whoever speaks against the Holy Spirit, it will not be forgiven him, either in this age or in the age to come.**

Let's clarify this

There is A LOT OF FEAR around these verses.

What if I have committed the Unpardonable Sin?

- Is there a sin that **God CANNOT** forgive?
- Is there a sin that **God WILL NOT** forgive?
- Is there a sin that the **blood of Christ DID NOT** cover?

Are not ALL sins covered?

ARE NOT ALL SINS COVERED?
COLLOSSIANS 2:13 // 1 JOHN 2:1
1 JOHN 1:7 // ROMANS 5:15

Colossians 2:13

And you, being dead in your trespasses and the uncircumcision of your flesh, He has made alive together with Him, **having forgiven you ALL trespasses**, ¹⁴ having wiped out the handwriting of requirements that was against us, which was contrary to us. And He has taken it out of the way, having nailed it to the cross.

1 John 2:2

And He Himself is the propitiation for our sins,
and not for ours only **but also for THE WHOLE WORLD.**

1 John 1:7

But if we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and **the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from ALL SIN.**

Romans 5:15

But the free gift is not like the offense. For if by the one man's offense many died, **much more** the grace of God and the gift by the grace of the one Man, Jesus Christ, abounded to many.

So WHAT IS the Blasphemy of the Holy Spirit? WHY is it unpardonable?

Look at what Jesus says about the Holy Spirit...

John 16:7

Nevertheless I tell you the truth. It is to your advantage that I go away; for if I do not go away, **the Helper** will not come to you; but if I depart, **I will send Him to you.** ⁸ And when He has come, He will convict the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment: ⁹ of sin, because they do not believe in Me; ¹⁰ of righteousness, because I go to My Father and you see Me no more; ¹¹ of judgment, because the ruler of this world is judged.

It is the Holy Spirit's work to bring conviction and to strengthen faith

- ***It's not that this sin can NEVER be forgiven***
- ***It is that as long as a person continues to resist the work of the Holy Spirit, he cannot place himself in a position of forgiveness...***

Stop worrying.

Listen to the Spirit's voice.

But how does this fit into the story of Matthew?

This is a sin that CAN be committed by an INDIVIDUAL

But this is about the way that ISRAEL had rejected her messiah.. CORPORATELY

Look back at verse 28...

Matthew 12:28

**... if I cast out demons by the Spirit of God,
surely the kingdom of God has come upon you.**

You are resisting the work of the Spirit!!!

This is a PIVOTAL MOMENT

A huge Shift in Emphasis

- 1. The Purpose of His Miracles - Shifts from acting as PROOF of His claims***
- 2. The Basis of His Miracles - The FAITH of the one needing help***
- 3. The Message of His Messiahship - Will be hidden***
- 4. The Method of His Teaching - Less preaching. More Parables.***

A HUGE SHIFT IN EMPHASIS
1. THE PURPOSE OF HIS MIRACLES
2. THE BASIS OF HIS MIRACLES
3. THE MESSAGE OF HIS MESSIAHSHIP
4. THE METHOD OF HIS TEACHING

Matthew 13:34

**All these things Jesus spoke to the multitude in parables;
and without a parable He did not speak to them**

But why Parables?

Some people believe that a parable is...

"A universal truth illustrated in simple language."

This is NOT Jesus' description

Mark 4:11

And He said to them, "To you it has been given to know the mystery of the kingdom of God; but to those who are outside, all things come in parables,

¹² so that (***QUOTING ISAIAH 6:9-10***)

'Seeing they may see and not perceive,

And hearing they may hear and not understand;

Lest they should turn,

And their sins be forgiven them.'"

This is NOT the Lord's desire for people generally

This is a JUDGMENT upon Israel for rejecting their Messiah!

Paul speaks about this too!

Romans 11:7

What then? Israel has not obtained what it seeks; but the elect have obtained it, and the rest were blinded. ⁸ Just as it is written:

***“God has given them a spirit of stupor,
Eyes that they should not see
And ears that they should not hear,
To this very day.”***

But be careful...

1. It has become popular to be ANTI-ISRAEL

Romans 11:25

For I do not desire, brethren, that you should be **ignorant** of this mystery, lest you should be **wise in your own opinion**, that blindness **in part** has happened to Israel **until** the fullness of the Gentiles has come in. ²⁶ And so **all Israel will be saved**, as it is written:

***“The Deliverer will come out of Zion,
And He will turn away ungodliness from Jacob;
²⁷ For this is My covenant with them,
When I take away their sins.”***

2. It is too easy to be PROUD

Romans 11:19

You will say then, ***“Branches were broken off that I might be grafted in.”***

²⁰ Well said. **Because of UNBELIEF they were broken off, and you stand by faith.**

Do not be haughty, but fear. ²¹ For if God did not spare the natural branches, He may not spare you either.

The key is faith!

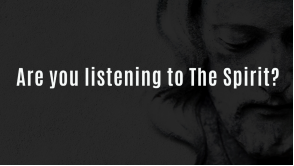
What was their big mistake?

Resisting the Holy Spirit, as he called them into the kingdom!

Are YOU listening to the Spirit?

He has called us to the Kingdom of Christ!

Have you chosen your side?



Are you listening to The Spirit?