

Life and Ministry of Jesus Christ
Casting out Demons
Jesus or Beelzebub – The Wickedness

Last time...Jesus cast out a mute demon, a Messianic miracle, and the accusation of the Pharisees – the folly of their accusation because a kingdom divided cannot stand
Believing miracles do not save from eternal death...believing in Jesus saves
Focus not on the Power of Jesus but on the Person of Jesus

This time...the wickedness of their accusation
The Unpardonable Sin

We will continue in Matt 12

In displaying the folly of the Pharisees determination of by what power He had cast out a mute demon...v24...Jesus employed what mathematicians would later call Boolean Logic

- all values are reduced to True or False
- a matter is binary, there are no shades of gray

Now, in displaying the wickedness of the Pharisees determination/accusation, Jesus continues with the wisdom of “binary logic”

v30 not with is against:

Regarding His Messiahship (v23 or v24), Jesus removes all options but two

Statement A

1. not with = against = opposed = not in association with = not believe
2. (with = for = joined with = believe)

Statement B

1. gathers not = to scatter from = to flee from = not believe
2. (gathers = come to = assemble with = believe)

In other words...Jesus is the Messiah,

- believe it or not
- all in or all out
- there is no
 - middle ground
 - fence to straddle
 - place for “undecided”
 - “I don’t know” = No
 - no decision is a decision

We cannot have Jesus “in part”...He does not give us that option
He is “all or nothing”...there is no neutral when it comes to Jesus

Jesus teaches that only 2 conditions exist (in spite of man’s reasoning)

- Light or darkness
- Life or death
- Truth or lie
- Right or wrong
- Holiness or sin
- Surrender/submission or defiance/rebellion
- Belief or unbelief

v31-32 forgiven...not forgiven:

The binary wisdom of God regarding sin and blasphemy:

1. forgiven

- ALL manner of sin and blasphemy (to vilify, speak evil of)
All sin against Jesus – will be forgiven
 - sexual sin – fornication, adultery, homosexuality, bestiality
 - violent sin – assault, murder, abortion, suicide, rape
 - shameful sin – we all have these!
- verbal attacks against the Son of Man
(Jesus Christ, God’s Messiah, Adam’s Kinsman-Redeemer)
Acts 26:9-18
Eph 2:1-9 amazing grace, how sweet the sound...

2. not forgiven

- blasphemy against (vilifying) the Holy Ghost
- opposing the Holy Ghost, believing a testimony of Jesus contrary that of the Holy Ghost
John 15:26 Spirit of Truth from Father, shall testify of Me
John 16:7-14

So, in the context of the passage centering around v23-24,

Mark 3:29-30 they said Holy Spirit is unclean/evil spirit
Acts 13:38-46 Acts 1:8, Acts 9:17-20, Holy Spirit in and upon

Blasphemy against the Holy Ghost (aka Unpardonable Sin) is not forgiven

- in this world...these heavens and earth (2 Peter 3:1-7)...hell
- in the next heavens and earth...eternal (2 Peter 3:8-10)...LoF

The Holy Spirit

- was involved in the work of creation (Gen 1:1-2)
- begot the Son of God of the virgin when the Christ left heaven and came to earth to take on the form of man as man's Kinsman-Redeemer
- filled the Christ's forerunner, John the Baptist, from his mother's womb
- came upon the Christ when He was baptized by His forerunner
- led the Christ in His ministry to defeat the devil and to perform the Father's ministry of reconciliation for lost mankind
- our Teacher and Guide into the Truth Who convicts us of sin and regenerates us (Titus 3:5)

Acts 4:12 Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved

To oppose/contradict/reject the Holy Spirit's testimony of Jesus Christ is literally and eternally playing with fire!

A person commits blasphemy against the Holy Spirit

- when they reject the Holy Spirit's testimony of Jesus
 - when they reject the Gospel and Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior
- a. Not a sin committed once, not single rejection that can never be retracted by the gift of repentance
- King David, Saul of Tarsus, woman caught in adultery
 - perhaps all of us...if we did not believe the first time we heard the Gospel
 - Luke 23:34, John 19:30, John 10:17-18
 - 1 John 1:9
 - Rom 5:1 therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ
 - Rom 5:20 where sin abounded, grace did much more abound
- b. A continuous, deliberate, willful, unrepented sin...
- determined unbelief to the end
 - determined unbelief in the Person, words, and work of Jesus Christ (Deut 18:19)

The blood of Jesus cleanses all sin...except the sin of unrepented unbelief
Nothing covers/removes that sin

This sin can never be forgiven unless

1. God changes so man need not change
Yet...Mal 3:6, Heb 13:8
2. God repents so man need not
Yet...Ps 110:4, Jer 4:28
3. God lies
Yet...Num 23:19, 1 Sam 15:29, Titus 1:2
4. God violates His nature (just)
Yet...Is 45:21, Hosea 14:9, Zeph 3:5

It is not possible for the holy and just God to forgive a person who stubbornly maintains defiant unbelief and a refusal to repent

This sin is unpardonable, cannot be forgiven,
not because God will not forgive no matter how much a person repents,
but because a person does not repent no matter how much God pleads

For the offender to not be forgiven is

1. not God's choice...He offers the gift of repentance
2. the offender's choice...to not repent

Blasphemy is a symptom, unbelief is the problem

v33 tree good...tree corrupt:

Jesus likens a person's life to a tree and their beliefs to the fruit

There are only 2 kinds of trees and fruit...it's binary

1. good (of God, void of sin, Matt 19:17)
John 15:1-8
2. corrupt (no good, of the world and the flesh)
Rom 7:18

A tree is known by fruit:

A good tree bears good fruit...a bad tree bears bad fruit

A good tree cannot bear bad fruit...a bad tree cannot bear good fruit

Needed for a bad tree to be good in order to bear good fruit:

- change of nature (only possible if Creator does it)
- intervention by God
- a gift of God (2 Tim 2:24-26)

repentance: agreement, humility, submission,
corresponding action/gratitude

v34-35 good treasure...evil treasure:

Jesus now echoes/affirms the testimony of Spirit-filled John the Baptist regarding these self-righteous unrepentant men: generation of vipers, sons of snakes

Matt 3:7-8

Thereby also testifying of His Identity – the Seed of the Woman, the Messiah

Gen 3:14-15

And Jesus again speaks in binary terms:

1. good treasure of the heart, good things...believe Him, Holy Spirit
 - words of life
 - mercy
 - grace
 - forgiveness
 - Is 33:6 wisdom and knowledge shall be the stability of thy times, *and* strength of salvation: the fear of the LORD *is* his treasure
 - producing things done by faith in obedience and submission to the Lord

2. evil treasure of the heart, evil things...not believe Him, Holy Spirit
 - words of death
 - condemnation
 - bitterness (Heb 12:15...poison in a person, family, church)
 - Prov 6:16-19 These six *things* doth the LORD hate: yea, seven *are* an abomination unto him: A proud look, a lying tongue, and hands that shed innocent blood, a heart that deviseth wicked imaginations, feet that be swift in running to mischief, a false witness *that* speaketh lies, and he that soweth discord among brethren
 - producing selfish, self-centered disobedience, rebellion

Belief in Jesus Christ

- good treasure and good things
- good tree producing good fruit

is a matter of...the heart

What matters is our heart...which is revealed by our tongue

v36-37 every idle word...by thy words:

2 eternal results of our words regarding the testimony of Jesus by the Holy Ghost

1. justified...”I believe, I agree!”
2. condemned ...”I don’t believe, I don’t agree”

It is binary...

The words we speak...the fruit of our heart...

are words of life or words of death...and are accountable for them

Men must stand before God and give an account for every idle/useless/barren word...every evil, unbelieving, contrary, deathly word

John 12:44-49

It is binary...

- light or darkness
- saved or judged
- receive/believe God’s Word (truth) or reject His Word
- life or death

Given Jer 17:9, needed to be good/justified/saved: a new heart

Issue: Justice...payment for sin demanded by the One offended by sin

Either Jesus Christ the Lamb of God bears all my/your sin and
God’s judgment for them

Or I/you bear my/your sins and God’s judgment for them

Point of division: Jesus Christ and Him crucified –
the Person and the work

Difference: my/your belief or unbelief in Jesus...not my/your sin

Do I trust in what I have done...or in what Jesus has done?

Will I do what I think is right...or what Jesus says is right?

The wickedness of the Pharisees: to oppose, contradict the testimony of God the Holy Ghost regarding Jesus Christ the Son of God, the Son of Man, the Son of David

Blasphemy against the Holy Ghost, the Unpardonable Sin, cannot be forgiven

What does that look like today?

Let's consider examples of Holy Spirit's testimony and blasphemy of the Holy Spirit

- Jesus Christ is God, the Word made flesh
 - No, He isn't
 - Jesus is a prophet, but not God (Islam)
 - Jesus is a god, a highly evolved man (LDS)
 - Jesus is Michael the archangel, not God (JW, SDA)
 - Jesus is a good man and a good teacher, but not God (Judaism)
 - I don't believe it
 - I don't know (= No)

- Jesus is the Christ, the Son of the Living God
 - No, He isn't
 - I don't believe it
 - I don't know

- Jesus Christ is the Lamb of God Who came to take away the sin of the world
 - No, He isn't
 - I don't believe it
 - I don't know

- Jesus Christ is the Way, the Life, and the Truth; no man comes to the Father but by Him
 - No, He isn't
 - Everybody goes to heaven, there is no hell
 - All religions/beliefs lead to God
 - I don't believe it
 - I don't know

- Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved
 - No, it isn't
 - I must pay for my own sins in Purgatory
 - I can do enough good works to get into heaven
 - The Church saves me
 - Mary is my mother and redeemer
 - I don't believe it
 - I don't know

- Hear Jesus' word, and believe on Him that sent Him and have everlasting life, and do not come into condemnation; but pass from death unto life
 - I don't believe it
 - I don't know

- You are a sinner in desperate need of 2 gifts of God: repentance and a Savior
No I'm not and No I don't
I am a good moral person
I don't know
- You must be born-again, born of the Spirit
No I don't
I am a good moral person
I don't know

Urgent Calls to Action:

1. If any of the above reactions to the testimony of the Holy Spirit is what you believe,
Repent!

Act 17:30 And the times of this ignorance God winked at; but now commandeth all men every where to repent: Because he hath appointed a day, in the which he will judge the world in righteousness by *that* man whom he hath ordained; *whereof* he hath given assurance unto all *men*, in that he hath raised him from the dead

Believe/trust in Jesus Christ...by faith receive grace, forgiveness, eternal life

Going to church does not save you, Jesus saves you
Churches are filled with people who proclaim Jesus but do not Matt 16:24
(believe = love = do)...without evidence of relationship, no salvation

2. There are MANY more in danger of no forgiveness and eternal damnation than there are of born-again believers in Jesus Christ
Jesus loves them and tells us to Go, engage people, all those "good person"s!

We are not saved from eternal death by good morals,
we are saved from eternal death "in Christ", in a personal relationship with Him

The destroyer of men's souls, the liar and murderer, is not opposed to the teaching of good morals, he is opposed to the name and Person of Jesus Christ... of Whom the Holy Spirit testifies

Teach morality...but remove the name and Person of Jesus Christ,
the Author of morality, the God of every good and perfect gift
Teach the teachings of Jesus...without Jesus
Do good works...but do not share the Gospel of Jesus Christ while doing them

Soon, in the absence of the absolute of Jesus the Word of God,
morality and truth will be compromised and become relative
(a spectrum of right vs binary right and wrong)
and confusion will steadily creep in and replace order

- Stealing is a sin!
Says who?
I need it more than you, you should give it to me;
but you didn't so I took what should be mine
Maybe it is for you but it is not for me
- Homosexuality is a sin!
Says who?
I was born this way
I'm not hurting you or anyone else, I am in a loving
relationship, my truth is different than your truth
- You are a boy/girl and use the right bathroom
Says who?
I am really a boy/girl
My gender is my choice, how I feel, not how I was born

Soon "political correctness" will overtake absolute, binary right and wrong
Soon churches will compromise the uncompromising Word of God
(compromise of binary truth introduces invalid/false options)
Soon churches will embrace the confusion and "PC" in order to "reach"
people

Soon churches will dilute the Gospel and stop teaching the name, Person,
and work of Jesus Christ and replace Him with social activities and
programs

Soon churches will give people what they want (in their flesh) rather than
what God says they need (in their spirit)

Soon churches will try "evangelizing" by being "relevant" to the culture,
not mention the name of Jesus Christ or the Cross and sin,
be like the culture rather than be like Jesus and oppose the culture
in Jesus' name

Soon churches will Gal 3:3

Soon there will be no fear of God in society or in churches

Let us not be ignorant of Satan and his devices!

Go urgently with the testimony of the Person and work of Jesus Christ,
for the time is short

Fear not, lovingly and boldly ask

“Do you believe in God?”

No, I believe in science and evolution, not in a fairy tale for
the simple-minded

Yes

“Do you know Jesus Christ and that He loves you
so much that He died for your sins?”

Come to the Gospel Presentation class we are forming

Invite “good person”s to church to learn about Jesus Christ

People moving between churches is not church growth, salvations are
church growth...we play a vital part in the work of God!

3. Make sure your salvation

Phil 2:12b-13 work out your own salvation with fear and trembling. For it is God
which worketh in you both to will and to do of *his* good pleasure

2 Peter 1:10 Wherefore the rather, brethren, give diligence to make your calling
and election sure: for if ye do these things, ye shall never fall

There is more to life than

- football
- money
- career
- houses and cars and stuff
- politics
- even our own parents, children, grandchildren

Entry into the Kingdom of God requires perfection/sinlessness (Matt 5:48)

That is why we need the Person and the work of Jesus Christ!

Make sure of your relationship with Him and your position before God
in Him

Live for Him, tell others about Him...love them as He loves them!

v31-32

Let him who has ears hear what the Spirit is saying to the church (a group of individuals)
Acts 17:11

Let's gather in small groups to pray...in agreement with, in one accord with our Father...
to let the Holy Spirit write these words on our hearts and to transform our lives

Closing Song