

Life and Ministry of Jesus Christ Right and Wrong Thinking

Last time...a lesson in prayer

This time...a lesson in thinking

We will again be in Luke 11

v14-16 He was casting out a devil, and it was dumb:

Jesus is ministering in Judea, as He had in the Galilee

John 4:34 **My meat is to do the will of him that sent me, and to finish his work.** (while ministering in Samaria)

Matt 12:22-45 (not just dumb but also blind, about 2 years ago,
the account that is much like this one in Judea)

Matt 9:32-34 (about 1 year ago)

The King of the Kingdom of God is continuing the assault/attack on the kingdom of Satan

This devil, not the person it is possessing, is dumb/unspeaking/speechless;
the demon has caused the speechlessness of the person
Having been cleansed of the dumb and unclean spirit by Jesus,
the no-longer-possessed person speaks

The Pharisees cast out devils/demons by learning its name and then, calling it by name, casting it out

But they could not cast out a dumb demon because they could not learn its name
They taught that only the Messiah could cast out a dumb devil

Is 35:4-6 God *with* a recompence; he will come and save you. the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf shall be unstopped. Then shall the lame *man* leap as an hart, and the tongue of the dumb sing:

In His ministry, Jesus has previously cast out dumb demons and He is still casting out dumb demons here in Judea

John 20:31

The witnesses in Judea react as did the witnesses in the Galilee during the previous 2 years:

1. marvel/wonder at the miracle of God (v14)
2. hostile unbelief and rejection (v15) – the same blasphemous and false accusation, the same counter-attack Jesus was accused of previously

Note: He Himself was also accused of having a devil in Jerusalem (between His ministries in Galilee and Judea). (John 8:48, John 10:20)

3. doubtful, testing unbelief (v16) – seeking a sign is a “sign” of unbelief
Deut 6:16 Ye shall not tempt the LORD your God

v17a But He, knowing their thoughts:

The 3 different reactions of the witnesses are thought, not spoken

God knows the thoughts of man

Ps 94:11 The LORD knoweth the thoughts of man, that they *are* vanity.

Prov 15:26 The thoughts of the wicked *are* an abomination to the LORD

Is 55:8-9

Jesus knows the thoughts of all the witnesses...Jesus is God

The words of Jesus that follow reveal, rebuke, and correct the bad thinking by

- the hostile unbelievers of v15 (v17b-26)
- the doubting unbelievers of v16 (v29-32)

v17b-20 kingdom divided...house divided:

First to have their thoughts revealed, rebuked, and corrected:

the hostile unbelievers who slanderously and blasphemously accused Jesus of being the prince of the devils, the “lord of the flies”

- a. grossly faulty logic (v17b-18) – Satan attacking his own kingdom will result in a self-inflicted fall of his kingdom... and he is not about to do that since he wants to accomplish his 5 “I will”s of [Is 14:12-14](#)
- b. self-incriminating and hypocritical – What does that make you, who cast out devils? (v19)

c. right thinking (v20) – God your Savior/Messiah

Is 43:3 *I am* the LORD thy God, the Holy One of Israel, thy Saviour

Is 45:15 Verily thou *art* a God that hidest thyself, O God of Israel, the Saviour

Is 45:21 *there is* no God else beside me; a just God and a Saviour; *there is* none beside me

Hosea 13:4 *I am* the LORD thy God from the land of Egypt, and thou shalt know no god but me: for *there is* no saviour beside me

The God of Israel, the Savior, has power and authority over all of Satan's kingdom

(to cast them out of people and into the pit)

Jesus has such power and authority, Jesus is the God of Israel

With the same finger that wrote

- the 10 Commandments in stone (Ex 31:18, Ex 32:16)
- something unknown in the dirt in John 8
- on the wall in Dan 5:5, 25-28

The King of the kingdom of God is in your very midst

To make His point of v20 vs v18, right thinking vs wrong thinking...

v21-22 strong man...stronger:

Satan, the real "lord of the flies", is a strong man, keeping his goods/kingdom safe

But when One stronger/mightier than him...Jesus Christ, God of AI&J...

- comes upon him – attacks Him
Ex 15:3 The LORD *is* a man of war: the LORD *is* his name
- overcomes him – conquers him and his kingdom

He

- takes from him all his armor – strips him of all his counterfeit/fake/pretend strength (all worldly) in which he had trusted in his rebellion against the King
- divides his spoils – takes away and redistributes all his precious stuff

Nothing, no matter how strong in the world or how much of it, can protect an unbeliever from the attack of Jesus Christ, the Almighty King

Therefore the conclusion...

v23 not with...against...gathers not...scatters:

Wrong thinking:

- Not with the King, against the King: unbelief, trust in some other (false) strength, to be conquered and destroyed by the King
- Not gathered with the King, scatter: “to be put to flight”
(Matt 7:21-23)
- most (Matt 7:13)

Right thinking:

- with the King: believe in, faith, being more than a conqueror through Him (Rom 8:37)
- gathered to: assembled together with the King
- few (Matt 7:14)

Notice the binary nature of Jesus’ correction:

A person’s thinking is either right or wrong

There is no middle ground, no room for compromise

There is no fence to straddle

Nor can a person have it both ways

v24-26 unclean spirit is gone out...enter...last state is worse:

The danger of being touched by the King, The Stronger Man, and yet

- remaining in unbelief, in wrong thinking
- being double-minded and unstable in one’s thinking and living

The unclean spirit

- leaves, for it must be commanded by Jesus (in name/authority of Jesus)
- walks in waterless, lifeless places
- returns, finding its prior dwelling put in order by the God of order
- brings 7 spirits more evil, ferocious than it
- all move back in

The unbelieving or double-minded is more aggravated and more confused than ever...the devil’s m.o.

A miraculous touch of God must be accompanied with faith in the King,
Jesus Christ

v27-28 Blessed is the womb...blessed are they:

Hearing Jesus' words that revealed, rebuked, and corrected the hostile unbelievers, a woman in the crowd exclaims how blessed the mother of Jesus is

Particularly in this time of heightened Messianic hope, it was every Jewish mother's hope to give birth to the Messiah

"Oh, this must be the Messiah!"

Jesus agrees with this woman...His mother is blessed among woman, she did give birth to the Messiah...

But, certainly blessed are all that

1. hear the Word of God
2. keep the Word of God

Deut 4:5-6

Behold, I have taught you statutes and judgments, even as the LORD my God commanded me, that ye should **do** so in the land whither ye go to possess it. **Keep** therefore and **do** *them*; for this *is* your wisdom and your understanding in the sight of the nations, which shall hear all these statutes, and say, Surely this great nation *is* a wise and understanding people

Rev 1:3

Blessed *is* he that readeth, and they that hear the words of this prophecy, and keep those things which are written therein: for the time *is* at hand

Matt 7:24-27

James 1:8, 21-25

double-minded = house divided...will fall
e.g. Zedekiah in Jer 38

To believe (Hab 2:4, John 6:29, Heb 11:6) is to do

To not do is to not believe

Those of the thinking of v15 do not believe and are in danger of a great fall (destruction)

Now Jesus reveals, rebukes, and corrects the bad thinking of the doubting unbelievers in v16

v29-32 evil generation...seek a sign...no sign:

generation: period of time or a people, depending on context

This context: people

evil: degenerate, diseased

To not believe God and His Word is evil

The doubting unbelievers seeking a sign from heaven are degenerate and diseased
in their thinking

They shall not be given a sign other than Jonah (a type of Jesus)

The Book of Jonah is not some mythical fish story,
it is historical and prophetic

Jonah was a sign to unbelievers

Jonah 1:17 Now the LORD had prepared a great fish to swallow up
Jonah. And Jonah was in the belly of the fish three days
and three nights.

Jonah 3:4-5 Jonah began to enter into the city a day's journey, and he
cried, and said, Yet forty days, and Nineveh shall be
overthrown. So the people of Nineveh believed God, and
proclaimed a fast, and put on sackcloth, from the greatest of
them even to the least of them.

The evil unbelievers in Nineveh repented

“thought differently, reconsidered”,

from Not Believe/Not Do to Believe/Do)

at Jonah’s preaching

Jesus will be a sign to unbelievers

His suffering, death, resurrection on the 3rd day

Is 11:10 And in that day there shall be a root of Jesse, which
shall stand for an ensign of the people; to it shall the
Gentiles seek: and his rest shall be glorious.

preaching repentance (think differently, reconsider, from Not Do to Do)

Signs/miracles do not produce faith, the Word of God does

Rom 10:17

James 1:21 Wherefore lay apart all filthiness and superfluity of
naughtiness, and receive with meekness the engrafted
word, which is able to save your souls

Luke 16:29-31 Abraham saith unto him, They have Moses and the prophets; let them hear them. And he said, Nay, father Abraham: but if one went unto them from the dead, they will repent. And he said unto him, If they hear not Moses and the prophets, neither will they be persuaded, though one rose from the dead

Jesus' stark warning to the unbelievers in Israel:

- The Ninevites (of all people!!!) will condemn them for not repenting, thinking differently
- The Gentile queen who came from a great distance to hear (and "eat") the God-given wisdom of the son of David will condemn them for not repenting, thinking differently

Application

Do you believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of the Living God?

Do you believe that Jesus with the finger of God can make pure, clean, right, and forever alive your spirit?

Do you trust in Him and in only Him to save you from eternal death?

Do you lean on Him and only Him or do you lean on something or someone else (like Self)?

God is not a respecter of persons

The Lord makes no distinction between kinds of unbelievers –

- all are evil...degenerate and diseased in their thinking
Rom 8:7 the carnal mind *is* enmity against God
Eph 4:17 walk not as other Gentiles walk, in the vanity of their mind
- all will be conquered and destroyed unless they repent, think differently

God's thoughts are so much higher than man's thoughts

God's thoughts change not, for God changes not

The Word of God spoken after Jesus cast out dumb spirits in Galilee (Matt 12, Matt 9) is spoken again after Jesus cast out a dumb spirit in Judea (Luke 11)

The Word of God does not change...ever, for anyone

Critical thinking: it is critical...a matter of eternal life and eternal death...how we think!

Is 65:2

"our thoughts" are degenerate and diseased, rebellious

Rom 12:2

A mind recalibrated to be in one accord with the God's mind, the mind of Christ

South Korean couple in AZ Mills Mall – wrong thinking or right thinking?

God gave His thoughts/Word to the Jews, and expected them to know it, hear and do it

God has given us His thoughts/Word, and He expects us to know it, hear and do it

There is so much error in Christianity!

There are so many false teachers in Christianity!

There is no Bible teaching in many congregations!

There are so few Christians who know the Word of God and pass everything they read and hear thru it (Acts 17:11, 1 Thes 5:21)

Jesus is warning His people about wrong thinking

Jesus is teaching His people about right thinking...learned at His feet

Luke 10:38-42

Mark 5:15

Let us believe...hear and do...with

Readiness of mind (Acts 17:11, 1 Peter 5:2, 2 Cor 8:19)

Humility of mind (Acts 20:19, Phil 2:3, Col 3:12)

Sound mind (2 Tim 1:7)

One mind...God's (5x in NT)