

## **Jesus Heals Demoniac**

**Matthew 12:22-30**

**Mark 3:22-27**

**Luke 11:14-23**

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### **Texts:**

#### **Matthew 12:22-30,**

**22. Then they brought him a demon-possessed man who was blind and mute, and Jesus healed him so that he could both talk and see.**

**23. All the people were astonished and said, “Could this be the Son of David?”**

**24. But when the Pharisees heard this, they said, “It is only by Beelzebub, the prince of demons, that this fellow drives out demons.”**

**25. Jesus knew their thoughts and said to them, “Every kingdom divided against itself will be ruined, and every city or household divided against itself will not stand.**

**26. If Satan drives out Satan, he is divided against himself. How then can his kingdom stand?**

**27. And if I drive out demons by Beelzebub, by whom do your people drive them out? So then, they will be your judges.**

**28. But if I drive out demons by the Spirit of God, then the kingdom of God has come upon you.**

**29. Or again, how can anyone enter a strong man’s house and carry off his possessions unless he first ties up the strong man? Then he can rob his house.**

**30. He who is not with me is against me, and he who does not gather with me scatters.**

#### **Mark 3:22-27,**

**22. And the teachers of the law who came down from Jerusalem said, “He is possessed by Beelzebub! By the prince of demons he is driving out demons.”**

**23 So Jesus called them and spoke to them in parables: “How can Satan drive out Satan?**

**24. If a kingdom is divided against itself, that kingdom cannot stand.**

**25. If a house is divided against itself, that house cannot stand.**

**26. And if Satan opposes himself and is divided, he cannot stand; his end has come.**

**27. In fact, no one can enter a strong man’s house and carry off his possessions unless he first ties up the strong man. Then he can rob his house.”**

**Luke 11:14-23,**

**14. Jesus was driving out a demon that was mute. When the demon left, the man who had been mute spoke, and the crowd was amazed.**

**15. But some of them said, “By Beelzebub, the prince of demons, he is driving out demons.”**

**16. Others tested him by asking for a sign from heaven.**

**17. Jesus knew their thoughts and said to them: “Any kingdom divided against itself will be ruined, and a house divided against itself will fall.**

**18. If Satan is divided against himself, how can his kingdom stand? I say this because you claim that I drive out demons by Beelzebub.**

**19. Now if I drive out demons by Beelzebub, by whom do your followers drive them out? So then, they will be your judges.**

**20. But if I drive out demons by the finger of God, then the kingdom of God has come to you.**

**21. “When a strong man, fully armed, guards his own house, his possessions are safe.**

**22. But when someone stronger attacks and overpowers him, he takes away the armor in which the man trusted and divides up the spoils.**

**23. He who is not with me is against me, and he who does not gather with me, scatters.”**

## **Commentary:**

**Matthew 12:22, Then they brought him a demon-possessed man who was blind and mute, and Jesus healed him so that he could both talk and see.**

I. A person was brought to Jesus who was possessed with a demon which caused this person to be both blind and “dumb” (speechless).

A. Jesus instantaneously, completely healed this man enabling him both to see and speak.

B. The miracle was performed in a packed residence, so crowded that people didn't even have room to eat.

C. Jesus' friends, seeing all the activity, tried to rescue Jesus thinking that he was overly zealous, beside himself.

**Matthew 12:23, All the people were astonished and said, “Could this be the Son of David?”**

I. This was such a monumental wonder that the people were utterly amazed.

II. The multitudes began to wonder if Jesus were the Son of David; that is, the Christ, Messiah, God's Anointed.

III. Christ's message was getting through to the multitudes, but not to the Pharisees who saw Jesus as a threat to their position of honor and authority.

**Matthew 12:24, But when the Pharisees heard this, they said, “It is only by Beelzebub, the prince of demons, that this fellow drives out demons.”**

I. The Pharisees and scribes that came down from Jerusalem, the seat of power, when they heard the multitudes saying that Jesus may indeed be the Christ, retorted, “Jesus casts out demons by Beelzebub, the prince of demons,” or, simply put, the devil.

A. Notice that the Pharisees did not deny that Jesus had indeed cast the demon out of this man who before had been blind and speechless.

B. “Beelzebub” or “Beelzebul” in Greek is a compound word believed to be derived from “Baal,” the old Canaanite god, and “zebul” which means “dunghill.”

C. The Pharisees claimed Jesus got his power to perform miracles from “the dunghill god.”

II. The Pharisees were not honest! They were not sincere. They weren’t even courteous. They were malicious.

A. Jews including Celsus as late as 170 A.D. repeated these slanders as did later Jewish Talmudists.

B. The **Talmud** consists of commentaries on the **Mishnah**, the oral law of the Jews (A.D. 135-220).

**Matthew 12:25, Jesus knew their thoughts and said to them, “Every kingdom divided against itself will be ruined, and every city or household divided against itself will not stand.”**

I. Jesus knew the thoughts of everyone including his enemies.

A. Jesus said that he was certainly not casting out demons by the power of the prince of demons because this would mean the devil was fighting the devil, that his kingdom/house would then be divided and could not stand.

B. The same is true among the various Christian churches today. Believers should not be fighting each other.

**Matthew 12:26, If Satan drives out Satan, he is divided against himself. How then can his kingdom stand?**

I. If Satan casts out Satan, he is divided against himself and his kingdom, under these conditions, could not stand.

II. The devil is too smart to do a stupid thing like that!

**Matthew 12:27, And if I drive out demons by Beelzebub, by whom do your people drive them out? So then, they will be your judges.**

I. If Jesus cast out devils by Beelzebub, it could be assumed that the Pharisees' disciples who cast out demons also did it by the power of Beelzebub.

II. Notice that Jesus did not here deny that the sons (disciples) of the Pharisees cast out demons. He did not endorse their exorcisms either.

III. The Pharisees' sons (disciples) would tell the Pharisees that they were wrong, that demons are cast out by the power of God.

**Matthew 12:28, But if I drive out demons by the spirit of God, then the kingdom of God has come upon you.**

I. If I do indeed cast out demons by the Spirit of God, Jesus said, you must accept the conclusion that I bring the kingdom near to you.

II. Luke 11:20 speaks of Jesus' casting out demon by "the finger of God."

**A. Exodus 8:17-19, They did this, and when Aaron stretched out his hand with the staff and struck the dust of the ground gnats came upon men and animals. All the dust throughout the land of Egypt became gnats. But when the magicians tried to produce gnats by their secret arts, they could not. And the gnats were on men and animals. The magicians said to Pharaoh, "This is the finger of God." But Pharaoh's heart was hard and he would not listen, just as the Lord had said.**

**Matthew 12:29, Or again, how can anyone enter a strong man's house and carry off his possessions unless he first ties up the strong man? Then he can rob his house.**

I. A robber knows that he cannot enter the house of a strong man and steal his goods without first binding, incapacitating the strong man.

II. Satan was the "strong man" whose kingdom (house) Jesus was in the process of demolishing.

III. Jesus was in the attack mode in his casting out demons.

IV. Satan is restrained, bound to a certain extent even now.

**A. Matthew 8:32, He said to them, “Go!” So they came out and went into the pigs, and the whole herd rushed down the steep bank into the lake and died in the water.**

**B. Job 1:12, The Lord said to Satan, “Very well, then, everything he has is in your hands, but on the man himself do not lay a finger.” Then Satan went out from the presence of the Lord.**

**C. Luke 22:31, 32, “Simon, Simon, Satan has asked to sift you as wheat. But I have prayed for thee, that thy faith fail not: and when thou art converted, strengthen thy brethren.”**

**D. 2 Peter 2:4, For if God did not spare angels when they sinned, but sent them to hell, putting them into gloomy dungeons to be held for judgment; . . .**

V. There can be no neutrality nor compromise in our battle, war with the devil.

**Matthew 12:30, “He who is not with me is against me, and he who does not gather with me scatters.**

I. Jesus emphatically said, “You are either for me or against me. You cannot ‘straddle the fence!’ You either help me gather souls into the kingdom or you scatter, work against me.”

II. In the great battle between darkness and light, righteousness and evil, good and bad, we are on one side or the other.

A. Contrary to public opinion there is no “gray” area between right and wrong.

B. The Bible knows nothing of situational ethics!

III. The Pharisees had to choose! They were either for or against Jesus.

## Jesus Heals Demoniac

### Questions

1. A \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_ man who was \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ was brought to Jesus who \_\_\_\_\_ him.

2. When the \_\_\_\_\_ heard of this miracle said Jesus drove out \_\_\_\_\_ by the power of \_\_\_\_\_, the \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_.

3. Jesus knew their \_\_\_\_\_. He knows our \_\_\_\_\_!

4. \_\_\_\_\_ does not oppose himself by casting out his own \_\_\_\_\_. Jesus said he cast out \_\_\_\_\_ by the \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_ and that this meant the \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_ had come upon them.

5. If a \_\_\_\_\_ is divided against itself, that kingdom cannot stand. If a \_\_\_\_\_ is divided against itself, that \_\_\_\_\_ cannot stand. What can we do to promote Christian unity? \_\_\_\_\_

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