

FOOLISH AND COSTLY DECISIONS

Matthew 12:1-45

#8 Oct. 4, 1998

Introduction:

Background:

Message:

- **MIRACLE:** Jesus heals a man on the Sabbath who is demon possessed, blind, and cannot speak (22).
- **QUESTION:** The Jewish people debate whether or not Jesus is the Messiah (23).
- **ANSWER:** The Pharisees, speaking for the religious and political leaders of Israel, pronounce that Jesus operates with demonic power (24).
- **REBUKE:** Jesus demonstrates the foolishness of the Pharisees' thinking (25-30).
 1. Generally, any organization characterized by in-house fighting will self-destruct (25).
 2. Specifically, Satan does not allow insubordination or in-house fighting (26).
 3. Experientially, if every exorcist is demon-possessed, then the Pharisees would have to admit that some of their colleagues are possessed (27).
 4. Rationally, if exorcists are not demon-possessed, then Jesus must be the Messianic King, offering the Kingdom, and operating in the power of the Holy Spirit (28).
 5. Realistically, Jesus must be far more powerful than Satan (29).
 6. Morally, there is no neutral position with regard to Jesus; He is either a liar, a lunatic, or Lord (30).
- **JUDGMENT:** The Jewish leaders, speaking for the Nation, refused every line of evidence – the testimony of the Father, the Words and works of the Son, the power of the Holy spirit. There is nothing more that God can do to convince them to believe in Jesus. This rejection is the unpardonable sin (31-37).
- **CONFIRMATION:** Jesus explains that “this generation” (v. 39,41,42,45), as a nation, is under judgment. They will not enter the Messianic Kingdom in physical bodies. NOTE: Some may trust Christ, individually, and become part of His Church, but they will not inherit the Kingdom promises given to the Jews in the Old Testament (38-45).

Life Applications:

■ For Seekers

1. It is not enough to clean house (moral reformation), we must also invite in the right tenant (Jesus). Mere religion will not save you. There must be regeneration – a work which the Holy Spirit accomplishes in us when we place our faith in the Lord Jesus Christ.
2. A gentle warning – prolonged rebellion against the testimony of God will have disastrous, eternal consequences!

■ For Growing Disciples

1. The religion of the Pharisees was a well-developed legalism, a religion of negatives. They did not understand “life in the Spirit.” Do you operate on a set of non-biblical rules? Do you know how to live the Spirit-filled life? Study Chafer’s *He That is Spiritual!*

■ For World-Changing Teens

1. What is true of Jesus is true of you. God “chose” you! God is “well-pleased” with you! God gave you His “Spirit!” God wants you to “proclaim justice” to your friends. Will you tell your friends that Jesus the Savior will soon return as Jesus the Judge?

■ For Leaders

1. The Pharisees give us an illustration of the influence that leaders have on people. Paul exhorted Timothy to “pay close attention to yourself and to your teaching.” (1 Tim. 4:16) No excuses! Get your theology straight! Study Ryrie’s *Basic Theology!*