

A DIFFERENT KIND OF KING

25: A Different Kind of King (Matthew 12:15-32)

Jesus was **a different kind of king**. Rather than announcing His arrival with trumpets & trying to impress the influential, King Jesus was gentle & just, caring for the weak & needy, the One whom the prophet wrote, "In his name the nations will put their hope."

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teachingnotes

Catch the Context

Last week we saw the "The Sabbath Showdown" with religious leaders who said Jesus was breaking the Sabbath while Jesus made the crazy claim to be, unless it was true. Jesus proved his authority by healing on the Sabbath (forbidden by rabbinical rules).

Matthew 12:9-14 (NIV) Going on from that place, he went into their synagogue, and a man with a shriveled hand was there. Looking for a reason to bring charges against Jesus, they asked him, "Is it lawful to heal on the Sabbath?" He said to them, "If any of you has a sheep and it falls into a pit on the Sabbath, will you not take hold of it and lift it out? How much more valuable is a person than a sheep! Therefore it is lawful to do good on the Sabbath." Then he said to the man, "Stretch out your hand." So he stretched it out and it was completely restored, just as sound as the other. **But the Pharisees went out and plotted how they might kill Jesus.**

The Compassionate King - Present

Matthew 12:15-16 (NIV) Aware of this, Jesus withdrew from that place. A large crowd followed him, and he healed all who were ill. He warned them not to tell others about him.

Jesus showed incredible compassion and **healed all who were ill**. Strangely, Jesus **warned them not to tell others about him**. This has been referred to in theological circles as "the Messianic secret." Jesus only revealed who He was to His closest disciples, until it was *TIME* for Him to go to the cross. Right now, it was not time.

The Compassionate King - Predicted

Matthew 12:17-19 (NIV) This was to fulfill what was spoken through the prophet Isaiah [Is 42:1-4]: "Here is my servant whom I have chosen, the one I love, in whom I delight; I will put my Spirit on him, and **he will proclaim justice to the nations**. He will not quarrel or cry out; no one will hear his voice in the streets."

He will proclaim justice to the nations. This person's message would have influence over and bring **justice to the nations** (includes the Gentile world, not just the Jewish people). However, this person isn't leading a parade or blowing a trumpet to cry out his message to crowds **in the streets**. Instead, He would speak the truth and **proclaim justice**. His ultimate goal is to **not quarrel with words**, but *demonstrate with actions* - that he is both gentle & just.

A Different Kind of King - Caring & Kind

Matthew 12:20-21 (NIV) A bruised reed he will not break, and a smoldering wick he will not snuff out, till he has brought justice through to victory. **In his name the nations will put their hope.**"

This predicted one is caring and kind - careful not to break **a bruised reed** or snuff out **a smoldering wick** about to go out. People would rather discard and replace **bruised reeds** or **smoldering wicks** with fresh, strong reeds & new candles. But Jesus treats those who are battered & burnt out with gentleness and makes them useful again!

☀ **Douglass O'Donnell** "Have you ever heard of such strange behavior? Would Alexander the Great have allowed bruised reeds and smoldering wicks as soldiers? Would Hitler have allowed his troops to lack rigorous training, discipline, skill, and courage?"¹

❓ Do you feel purposeless, worthless, and unusable?

🕒 Jesus is **a different kind of king** who will make you useful again! **In his name the nations will put their hope**. *WHO is that referring to?* 2000 years after the ministry of Jesus, people from thousands of tribes & languages **put their hope** in Him!

¹ Douglas Sean O'Donnell, Matthew: All Authority in Heaven and on Earth, ed. R. Kent Hughes, Preaching the Word (Wheaton, IL: Crossway, 2013), 324.

People Think Jesus is Messiah

Matthew 12:22-23 (NIV) 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. All the people were astonished and said, "Could this be **the Son of David?**"

Once again, Jesus casts out a demon and restores the life of one of those **bruised reeds/smoldering wicks** we talked about just a few moments ago.

Son of David is not referring to King David's physical son. (David and his sons lived about 1000 years before this moment.) **Son of David** is a phrase referring to **the Messiah**, who would come from the family tree of King **David**. Multiple Old Testament prophecies refer to **the Messiah** reigning over the throne of **David**.

The Messiah Reigns from David's Throne

Isaiah 9:6-7 (NIV) For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. Of the greatness of his government and peace there will be no end. **He will reign on David's throne** and over his kingdom, establishing and upholding it with justice and righteousness from that time on and forever. The zeal of the LORD Almighty will accomplish this.

Jewish people knew this prophecy

John 7:42 (NIV) Does not **Scripture say that the Messiah will come from David's descendants** and from Bethlehem, the town where David lived?"

In asking, "**Could this be the Son of David?**", the people were asking, "Is this the long awaited Messiah?"

Pharisees Think Jesus is being used by the Devil

Matthew 12:24-27 (NIV) But when the Pharisees heard this, they said, "It is only by Beelzebul, the prince of demons, that this fellow drives out demons." 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. If Satan drives out Satan, he is divided against himself. How then can his kingdom stand? And if I drive out demons by Beelzebul, by whom do your people [literally *sons* = disciples] drive them out? So then, they will be your judges.

The **Pharisees** were saying, "The reason he has this authority to drive out demons is because Satan has given him this authority to trick people." Jesus counters by asking if the Pharisee's disciples (**your people** - literally "sons") **drive out demons** because the devil gives them the authority to do so? Certainly not! They would say that God, not the devil, gave them the authority to drive out demons. These exorcists might say, "We've never seen ungodly men cast out demons - only the godly whom trust in Yahweh." And now Jesus makes that same claim for Himself.

The Strong Man & The Stronger Man

Matthew 12:28-29 (NIV) But **if it is by the Spirit of God that I drive out demons**, then the kingdom of God has come upon you. "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 plunder his house.

In the illustration, the devil (or demons) is "**the strong man**", the stronger man is Jesus! The demonstrations of **the Spirit of God** and **the authority of Jesus** (e.g casting out demons) prove that **the kingdom of God has come...on earth**. A KINGDOM refers to the King's Domain, and Jesus is proving that **HE - not the demons, HE - not the Pharisees, is large and in charge**.

Jesus healed thousands and cast out multitudes of demons. NO ONE in the history of the world had done what Jesus had done!

Enemies of Jesus, Forgiveness, & Blasphemy of the Spirit

Matthew 12:30-32 (NIV) Whoever is not with me is against me, and whoever does not gather with me scatters. And so I tell you, every kind of sin and slander can be forgiven, but **blasphemy against the Spirit will not be forgiven**. Anyone who speaks a word against the Son of Man will be forgiven, but **anyone who speaks against the Holy Spirit will not be forgiven**, either in this age or in the age to come.

You don't have to be a sworn enemy against Jesus. All you do is choose to **not** be **with** Him, to **scatter** and walk away from Him, rather than follow Him.

- There's nothing so good you can do to be made right with God.
- There's nothing so bad you can do to not be made right with God. *Yes, you CAN be forgiven! Turn from your sin and turn to Him!*

People can be forgiven for all kinds of sins - sexual sin (before marriage, outside of marriage, & homosexual activity), idolatry, theft, drunkenness/drug use, slander, & swindling others. **ALL OF THOSE sins can be fully forgiven!** (See 1 Cor 6:9-11).

Paul's Sin & Jesus' Patience

1 Timothy 1:13-6 (NIV) Even though I was once a blasphemer and a persecutor and a violent man, I was shown mercy because I acted in ignorance and unbelief. **The grace of our Lord was poured out on me abundantly**, along with the faith and love that are in Christ Jesus. Here is a trustworthy saying that deserves full acceptance: **Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners—of whom I am the worst**. But for that very reason I was shown mercy so that in me, the worst of sinners, **Christ Jesus might display his immense patience** as an example for those who would believe in him and receive eternal life.

There is one sin that will not be forgiven - **blasphemy against the Spirit** - *but WHAT is THAT?*

- Note: *beyond the gospel writings, there is NO MENTION of "blasphemy of the Spirit"*, not by Peter, Paul, James, Jude, nor Dr. Luke - in the writing we call ACTS.
- See the list of all the Greek uses typically translated as **blasphemy** in the New Testament in the Visual Notes (and can get you a copy if you email me or ask). NOT ONE of these passages beyond the Gospels refer to **blasphemy of the Spirit** to remind the reader of it being an unforgivable sin. If blasphemy of the Spirit is such a dangerous thing to do - and unforgivable once it is...why NO MENTION of it in Acts-Revelation?

👁️ **See the article** called "**Guilty of the Unforgivable Sin?**" in the [link in visual notes](#) or [take a picture of the QR Code](#) to read it): <https://bit.ly/3P4qVuu>



Thankfully, *in context, it's not a mystery*, as Matthew has just mentioned the Pharisees saying Jesus performed his miracles by the power of the devil. *According to Jesus*, **blasphemy against the Spirit** is what happened when a person saw His miracles and *still* claimed that He was empowered by Satan rather than empowered by the Holy Spirit. **These people had the Messiah in their midst**. They had PROOF of His claims in His many miracles, yet they attribute these powers to Satan instead of the Spirit. Since they were - despite the evidence of the Holy Spirit's miraculous work - convinced that Jesus is an agent of Satan, *they would never seek Him for forgiveness*. Jesus was holding **that generation** - the ones who saw Him and heard Him - more accountable than ANY OTHER.

The **blasphemy against the Spirit** that Jesus spoke of could only be committed by people who saw Jesus perform miracles & still chose to attribute those works to Satan instead of to the Holy Spirit. THAT sin could never be forgiven.

🌟 **NT Wright:** "*Once you declare that the spring of fresh water is in fact polluted, you will never drink from it.*"²

So what's that MEAN for you and me?

YOU could never commit blasphemy of the Holy Spirit like Jesus talked about. Therefore, **NOTHING you have done is UNFORGIVABLE**.

BIG TRUTH: If you're still breathing, there's still HOPE.

Put Your Hope in Jesus

Matthew 12:20-21 (NIV) A bruised reed he will not break, and a smoldering wick he will not snuff out, till he has brought justice through to victory. **In his name the nations will put their hope.**"

Turn from your sin & trust Jesus - while you still have time. The Holy Spirit *IS* still at work today. **He is the One who deals with your soul.** The Spirit convicts us of our sin and our need for a Savior.

Put your hope in Jesus while you still have time. Although you cannot commit **blasphemy against the Spirit** or another sin that is unforgivable, that doesn't mean you get a free pass to heaven.

🔍 *You have sinned & need to be forgiven.* If you are *not forgiven*, you are held accountable for your sin by the HOLY GOD.

❓ **Is Jesus where you put your hope?**

heretoserveyou

Have questions and need some help? ...real soon...how about now? Please **call** or **text** us soon!

* Contact **Jackie** (850-673-1582), **Christy** (850-673-9764), **Caleb** (864-315-8015), **Gary** (850-673-2507), **Betty** (850-973-3266), or another follower of Jesus soon!

* Or call our **deacons & wives: Alan & Christy Androski** (850-464-1428), **Steve & Debbie Bass** (850-673-7952), **Tim & Joni Hughey** (850-464-1156), **Mark & Dot Mancil** (850-253-5405), **Boss & Amelia Mulkey** (850-464-6717), or **Tom & Martha Waddail** (850-973-0011).

discussion questions

Take some time to discuss these questions with your family, friends, or group.

1. What challenged or encouraged you *most* from today's teaching?
2. **Read Matthew 12:17-21** as Matthew quotes from Isaiah 42:1-4 (written 700 years before the ministry of Jesus). Discuss what this says about Jesus and how He fulfills this prophecy of the Messiah.
3. **Read Matthew 12:22-29**. Who do the people think Jesus could be (what does "Son of David" mean)? Why do the Pharisees think Jesus has been given power by the devil and how does Jesus counter that claim?
4. **Read Matthew 12:30-32**. How would you answer the person who says, "I'm not a Christian, but I'm not an enemy of Jesus." What would you say to the person who says, "I have misused the name of Jesus and treated the name of Jesus with hate & dishonor. Jesus can't forgive me after how I've treated him."?
5. While many think that rejecting the gospel message even once could be blasphemy of the Holy Spirit, how do we know this is not the case? **Read Luke 12:10, Matthew 12:24, 31, and Mark 3:28-30**. Why is the context so important to get the intention of what Jesus meant by blasphemy of the Spirit? (Consider looking up the passages listed using the Greek word for blasphemy and discuss why Peter, Paul, Dr. Luke, and others don't refer to blasphemy of the Spirit in their writings.)
6. Read **1 Corinthians 6:9-11** and **1 Timothy 1:13-16**. Based on these passages, what sins can be forgiven by God? Who do you know who has greatly sinned, who needs to be reminded that they haven't gone too far....yet?
7. What challenged or encouraged you most from today's teaching? What does God want YOU to do with what we studied today?
8. Share prayer needs and pray for one another.