

L9 | "Why Are So Many People Divided?" | Matt. 12:25-26

I. Intro/Review:

- Many ask this question and it tells two things
 1. The ignorance of where and why division comes, and
 2. An inkling of knowledge that there shouldn't be division.
- What is division?
 - Is it institutional?
 - Is it an attitude?
- Where does it come from?
- Is any division good?
- The foundation laid from answering previous questions sheds light on answering all questions
 - Part of the answer to the question is in the question itself
 - We have seen there is "truth or lie" - many truths of truth, but truth and many lies of the lie, but lie
 - And we have understood where evil has come from - Satan, man, sin, and the wicked heart

II. Preview:

1. What is division?
 - a. Examples
 - b. What are some things people are divided in?
2. Refresh ourselves with "people"
3. Opposite of division

III. Sermon:

1. **What is division?**

{Matthew 12:22-26} Then was brought unto him one possessed with a devil, blind, and dumb: and he healed him, insomuch that the blind and dumb both spake and saw. {23} And all the people were amazed, and said, Is not this the son of David? {24} But when the Pharisees heard it, they said, This fellow doth not cast out devils, but by Beelzebub the prince of the devils. {25} And Jesus knew their thoughts, and said unto them, Every kingdom divided against itself is brought to desolation; and every city or house divided against itself shall not stand: {26} And if Satan cast out Satan, he is divided against himself; how shall then his kingdom stand?

1. Definition - The act of dividing or separating into parts | to have division irrespective of whether it's good or evil
 - To part or separate an entire thing; to part a thing into two or more pieces

- Disunion; discord; variance | to bring division where there ought not be
2. Kingdoms can be divided
 - Cities can be divided
 - Houses can be divided
 3. Such divisiveness is
 - a. "Against itself"
 - What does that mean? | the thing it which it is for isn't fulfilled/purpose
 - b. Is brought to desolation
- a. Examples
- Things God has divided/separated
 - Type
 1. Genesis 1:1 | Creation - heaven and earth
 2. Genesis 1:4 | Light and Darkness/Day and Night
 3. Genesis 1:6 | Waters from waters
 4. Genesis 1:27, 3:21-22 | Man - male and female (makes two from one that they may be one (Gen. 3:24)
 5. Genesis 8:22 | Seasons/time (Eph. 2:11ff)
 6. Deut. 32:7-8 (Gen. 10:32) | divided to the nations their inheritance, when He separated the sons of Adam\
 7. Genesis 17:9-13 | Circumcision and Uncircumcision
 - Judgment
 1. Lev. 26:19 | Kingdoms - 10 northern and 2 southern
 2. Eph. 2 | Jews and Gentiles (middle wall of partition)
 - Things in which God doesn't want divided
 - Marriage
 - Families
 - Government
 - The Body of Christ
 - Unity in division - only in the church
 - Many members, but one body
- b. What are some things people are divided in?
- Generally, people are divided first in their ideologies
 - A set of doctrines or beliefs that are shared by the members of a social group or that form the basis of a political, economic, or other system.
 - The science of ideas or of mind; a name applied by the later disciples of the French philosopher Condillac to the history and evolution of human ideas, considered as so many successive forms or modes of certain original or transformed sensations; that system of mental philosophy which derives knowledge exclusively from sensation.
 - Ideologies encompass thoughts about all things - and unlike many church-goers they live by those ideas.

- Specifically, people can only be divided in things in which God has given man
 - Marriage - ideas of adultery, polygamy, etc - before marriage fornication, lewdness, and chambering
 - Families - parenting, teaching and education, abortion
 - Government - kind of government, the sword, authority
 - Two party system - division
 - Checks and balances
 - Christ kingdom is a one person system
 - The Church - faith, gods, false doctrine
- Where do these ideals come from concerning everything?
 - Will worship
 - Sensations of the flesh
 - Their value system (pride or charity)

2. Refresh ourselves with "people"

- John 3:19 - "And this is the condemnation, that light is come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil."
 - The provision for evil deeds is darkness, thus because men love their evil deeds they love darkness in attempts to cover or hide them.
 - Evil deeds is the fruit of sin strengthened by vain wisdom and knowledge - the ideas of man
 - Romans 1; Eph. 4
- A few things in which guide and direct the heart and provide for man's evil deeds
 - Power/authority
 - Money/greed
 - Lessen the afflictions of the flesh to provide temporal comfort which beguiles the soul to think it is fair and in no peril.
 - Produces strife and envy - divisions (1 Cor. 3:1-4)
- Summary
 1. People are divided first because they are people
 2. People are divided because in their person they love lies and lusts

3. Opposite of division

- Communion, unity, likemindedness, oneness, fellowship
- The body of Christ is the only organism in which can have unity and communion even in diversity because we possess "truth" and "love" to bind us together.
 - Rom. 15:6 - "one mind and one mouth"

- 1 Cor. 1:9-10 - "called unto the fellowship of His Son....speak same thing, joined together, same mind and judgment."
- Php. 2:1-2 - one in mind
- Eph. 4:1-6 - bond of peace
 - One's
- Col. 3:14 - charity, which is the bond of perfectness

IV. Conclusion: