

Sunday, July 28, 2024

Don't Miss It

Matthew 12: 22–37 Jesus and Beelzebul

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 Beelzebul, 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 Beelzebul, by whom do your people drive them out? So then, they will be your judges. 28 But if it is by the Spirit of God that I drive out demons, 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 plunder his house.

30 "Whoever is not with me is against me, and whoever does not gather with me scatters. 31 And so I tell you, every kind of sin and slander can be forgiven, but blasphemy against the Spirit will not be forgiven. 32 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.

33 "Make a tree good and its fruit will be good, or make a tree bad and its fruit will be bad, for a tree is recognized by its fruit. 34 You brood of vipers, how can you who are evil say anything good? For the mouth speaks what the heart is full of. 35 A good man brings good things out of the good stored up in him, and an evil man brings evil things out of the evil stored up in him. 36 But I tell you that everyone will have to give account on the day of judgment for every empty word they have spoken. 37 For by your words you will be acquitted, and by your words you will be condemned."

1. Anger at a Healing

Jesus heals someone, the people see it and say "Could this be the Son of David?". Is this really the messiah, the one that's been prophesied, the one we've been waiting for, the one that's to save us?!

And the leaders lash out in a panic and say "it's only the prince of demons". Why would they say that at a joyful moment?

- Arrogance/pride- Surely they would be in the know if the messiah was here, if Jesus was the messiah they'd have to become students again and learn from Jesus.
- Expectations- surely the Messiah would be different than this, greater than this.
- Jealousy- they're not the star of the show anymore
- Change- if the messiah is here, everything as they knew it would be different.

Whatever the reason is, they would rather call him evil than accept him. Jesus responds by exposing their flawed logic.

2. The Pharisee's exposed

If Satan drives out Satan, he is divided against himself. How then can his kingdom stand? Knowing that the Pharisees claim to drive out demons in the name of God Jesus says if I'm evil, then so are you.

27 And if I drive out demons by Beelzebul, by whom do your people drive them out?
28 But if it is by the Spirit of God that I drive out demons, then the kingdom of God has come upon you.

The promised messiah is here, and they are missing it.

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 plunder his house."

In case that is not clear: Jesus is tying up Satan, kicking him and his demons out, and is about to conquer death and take what is his.

And in verse 30, if you are not with me then you are against me. Your words reveal yourself and you will be condemned.

35 A good man brings good things out of the good stored up in him, and an evil man brings evil things out of the evil stored up in him. 36 But I tell you that everyone will have to give account on the day of judgment for every empty word they have spoken. 37 For by your words you will be acquitted, and by your words you will be condemned."

The Pharisee's have been exposed.

3. Don't Miss it!

The Pharisee's wanted to see God move and when they saw him move with their own eyes, they missed it! Everyone in this world who has heard about Jesus would want to see him move. They would want you to "prove it":

- "if God really exists.. he'd bring my back my dad"
- "if God really exists he'd heal my back."
- "If God really exists, he'd give me money money..."

If we are not ready for it, we can be right there and still miss it. When people are not drawing near, they become blind to testimony and factual stories about a Big God that does big things in our lives and loves us. We can become blind and deaf:

John 10: 24 So the Jews gathered around him and said to him, "How long will you keep us in suspense? If you are the Christ, tell us plainly." 25 Jesus answered them, "I told you, and you do not believe. The works that I do in my Father's name bear witness about me, 26 but you do not believe because you are not among my sheep. 27 My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me. 28 I give them eternal life, and they will never perish, and no one will snatch them out of my hand. 29 My Father, who has given them to me,[a] is greater than all, and no one is able to snatch them out of the Father's hand. 30 I and the Father are one."

If you don't hear God, then you're not listening. If you don't see God then you're not watching. You have as much of God as you want. Are you drawing near? If you are hearing his voice, are you obeying and doing the work He has prepared for you to

do? Are you sharing the miracles that you know of- the changes in lives that you are aware of?

Luke 8:39 "Return home and tell how much God has done for you." So the man went away and told all over town how much Jesus had done for him.

Despite the world's demands to see God and to believe God they still might miss it! It's up to us to make sure they don't! The pharisees are literally seeking God, they see an act from God, and they miss it!

The other side of this same thought process is we want to blame God when something bad happens in our life. We live in a world that's distorting good from bad. There are people out there that mock his death on the cross. He is doing things for you daily, are you seeing it? Are you drawing near? If Jesus was to reveal himself to you today, are you ready for it?

Jeremiah 29:13

13 You will seek me and find me when you seek me with all your heart.

There are three positions you can maintain about Jesus (and we see in Matthew 12):

- 1) Jesus is the Messiah
- 2) Is Jesus the Messiah?
- 3) Jesus is not the Messiah

In verse 31-32, Jesus says:

31 And so I tell you, every kind of sin and slander can be forgiven, but blasphemy against the Spirit will not be forgiven. 32 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. 33 "Make a tree good and its fruit will be good, or make a tree bad and its fruit will be bad, for a tree is recognized by its fruit. 34 You brood of vipers, how can you who are evil say anything good? For the mouth speaks what the heart is full of. 35 A good man brings good things out of the good stored up in him, and an evil man brings evil things out of the evil stored up in him.

Matthew 10:32

32 "Whoever acknowledges me before others, I will also acknowledge before my Father in heaven. 33 But whoever disowns me before others, I will disown before my Father in heaven.

May we all acknowledge God daily and tell the world of His goodness and may God reveal His love to those who do not know Him so they too can bear His name proudly.

Don't miss it.

QUESTIONS:

After briefly reviewing the message outline and text, use these questions to further examine the sermon and to discuss how these truths apply to daily life, so we can “be doers of the word, and not hearers only” (Jas. 1:22).

Don’t feel like you need to discuss every question.

1. Have you ever been so engrossed in “something” that you actually “missed it”? Have you ever been accused of something that wasn’t true? How did it make you feel? How did you respond? Were you angry? Upset? Hurt? Sad? Have you ever heard an argument built upon emotions rather than fact and logic?
2. What is the worst power outage you have ever experienced? What made it worse than any of the others? “Seeing the power of God”—the people could clearly see the power of God at work in Jesus. Can you think of a time during the past week or month when you have seen the power of God at work? If someone asked you to “show me the receipt” of God’s power, what story would you share? “Rejecting the power of God”—what do you think motivated the Pharisees to reject Jesus and the power of God that was at work in Him? What motivates people today to discount the power of God at work in lives?
3. Jesus says that there are really only two options: rejecting or embracing (v.30). Often times people seem to just try to ignore this reality. What do you think Jesus would say to someone who just shrugs their shoulders and doesn’t want to make a choice/commitment to him? Rejecting the power of God at work in Jesus means that a person rejects the message and messenger of the gospel (Matt. 12:18), the power of the gospel to save (Romans 1:16), the power of God to transform (Romans 8:11), the power of the only name that can save (Acts 4:12), and the power that allows a person to trust in Jesus (1 Cor. 12:3). Read each of these verses, and discuss what each one says about the power of God that is demonstrated in Christ Jesus—what does that power look like, what does it accomplish?
4. We are called to embrace the power of God.
Understand=know=experience=relationship. How does a person connect to the power of God, experience the power of God? Read Matthew 12:33-37. Our words reveal what is in our heart. Does this mean that a saved person will speak only good

words? Are you all in with your relationship with Christ- how does that show up in your daily life? How can we use our words to demonstrate the power of God in our life?