

Sunday Sermon Guide

Central Baptist Church – Crockett, Texas

August 30, 2026 – Sent by the King: The Strong Man

Main Passage: Matthew 12:22–30

Main Idea:

Jesus is stronger than Satan, His kingdom has come, and the evidence leaves no neutral ground: we must surrender and stand with the King.

1) The Evidence They Could Not Deny (*Matthew 12:22–24*)

Supporting Scriptures: *Isaiah 35:5–6; Matthew 11:4–5; John 5:36*

- Jesus immediately delivered a man who could neither see, speak, nor free himself.
- The crowd recognized that the miracle pointed toward Jesus as the promised Son of David.
- The Pharisees saw the same evidence but invented an explanation that protected their control.

2) The Excuses That Could Not Stand (*Matthew 12:25–27*)

Supporting Scriptures: *Mark 3:23–26; Luke 11:17–19; Acts 19:13–16*

- Satan would not empower Jesus to tear down Satan's own kingdom and release Satan's captives.
- The Pharisees used one standard for their own exorcists and another for Jesus; prejudice, not evidence, drove their conclusion.

3) The Kingdom They Could Not Stop (*Matthew 12:28–29*)

Supporting Scriptures: *Isaiah 42:1; Colossians 2:15; Hebrews 2:14–15*

- Jesus drove out demons by the Spirit of God, proving that God's King and kingdom had come upon them.
- Jesus frees the strong man's captives because He has confronted, defeated, and restrained an enemy who is no match for Him.

4) The Decision They Could Not Avoid (*Matthew 12:30*)

Supporting Scriptures: *Joshua 24:15; John 3:18; Romans 10:9–13*

- There is no neutral ground before Jesus: refusing to stand with Him means standing against Him.
- The gentle Servant exposes our sin so that we will surrender, receive His mercy, and follow Him as King.
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Takeaways

- Evidence can be undeniable while a heart remains unwilling to surrender.
- Rejecting Jesus often reveals a love of pride and control, not a lack of truth.
- Jesus drives back darkness by the Spirit of God; God's kingdom has arrived in the King.
- Jesus is gentle toward the broken and stronger than the enemy who breaks them.
- Delaying a response to Jesus is not neutrality; we are either with the King or against Him.

Questions for Reflection

1. What truth about Jesus am I pushing back against because I don't want to give up control?
2. What excuses am I making to avoid surrendering something to Jesus?
3. Am I harder on Jesus and His Word than I am on my own opinions and choices?
4. Where do I need to trust that Jesus is stronger than whatever is fighting against me?
5. Does the way I live show that I am with Jesus? What needs to change this week?

Bottom Line

Satan is strong, but Jesus is stronger—and there is no neutral ground before the King.

"The hand gentle enough to protect a dying ember is powerful enough to bind the strong man."

"Our excuses do not remove His authority. Our unbelief does not stop His kingdom."