

Matthew 12.22-37

Unforgivable!

STORM Clouds are FORMING – Deadly Opposition against Lord Jesus Christ

v. 14 the Pharisees went out and conspired against him, how to destroy him.

If I knew SUCH FATE Soon Awaited Me – Paralyzed with FEAR

FOCUS on MYSELF, MY SITUATION > NOT Worry about OTHERS

Jesus will DIE for PEOPLE He LOVED – Now see Him Love while He Lives

v. 15 And many followed him, and he healed them all

Matthew – who ORGANIZED Gospel by THEME – Recounts another Healing

v. 22 Then a demon-oppressed man who was blind and mute was brought to him, and he healed him, so that the man spoke and saw.

Like MOST of Matthew's STORIES – Details are TANTALIZINGLY Brief

Verse has AS MANY QUESTIONS as it does WORDS

How does Guy who Cannot See or Talk FIND OUT about Jesus?

How Old? How DID they Know his AILMENTS DEMONIC? How Healed?

Man's NAME and MIRACLE ADDED to LONG, Growing List of Jesus Works

Jesus was FAR EXCEEDING His 15 Minutes of FAME

TOO Many things HAPPENING for COINCIDENCE or ACCIDENTS

Works of Jesus HIGHLY UNUSUAL and DEMANDED an EXPLANATION

1. Two Reactions

a. Maybe the Messiah?

v. 23 And all the people were amazed, and said, "Can this be the Son of David?"

Crowd is ASTONISHED – Amazing AUTHORITY – Never Seen Before

Man could not Call out to Jesus to Save him, nor See Way to Come to Jesus
 Friends brought Helpless Sinner to Savior, and Jesus Healed him immediately.

We will NEVER Understand All about Jesus – He remains AMAZING
 Better to BRING your QUESTIONS – Even your DOUBTS – to JESUS

b. Demonic Deliverer?

v. 24 But when the Pharisees heard it, they said, “It is only by Beelzebul, the prince of demons, that this man casts out demons.”

They HAD to SAY SOMETHING – Jesus was making too Many Headlines!
 THEIR Reaction to Jesus PROVES that He REALLY Was doing MIRACLES

Jesus doing Miracles that no one had ever seen before –

Feeding Multitudes – Healing Lepers - Raising the Dead - Sight to Blind

Not ALL the Religious Leaders took NEGATIVE View of Jesus & His Works

a man of the Pharisees named Nicodemus, a ruler of the Jews... said to him,
 “Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher come from God, for no one can do these
 signs that you do unless God is with him.” John 3.1,2

Religious LEADERS here in Matthew – NOT See David > Demonic Deceiver

This GUY Very DIFFERENT than They’re Expectation of DAVIDIC KING

Wanted National LIBERATION > Not a BLESSING for ALL NATIONS

Wanted to HURT the Romans > this Guy HEALS General’s SERVANTS

Want to Honor the Righteous > He Exalts HARLOTS and the RABBLE

Jesus claims GREATER than DAVID, LAW, and TEMPLE

Pharisees FEAR Beginning to Lose their Hold on the People

Narrative Not About Demon Possession > Big Lie of Unbelief & Jesus' Answer

BIG LIE – Widely Used to AVOID the REAL TRUTH – Very OLD Tactic

“The big lie” means that if you repeat a lie loudly enough and often enough, people will believe you. Nero used it when he fingered the Christians for the fire that destroyed Rome. Adolf Hitler used it when he blamed Germany's post-World War I economic troubles on the Jews. James Boice

the devil... has nothing to do with the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he lies, he speaks out of his own character, for he is a liar and the father of lies John 8.44

Turn on NEWS and HEAR – Modern Lies as World Describes followers of Jesus

2. Two Rebuttals

a. Why Divide a Kingdom?

LOGICAL Rebuttals > Jesus does NOT give a BIBLICAL Defense > Reasons vs. 25-28 Knowing their thoughts, he said to them, “Every kingdom divided against itself is laid waste, and no city or house divided against itself will stand. And if Satan casts out Satan, he is divided against himself. How then will his kingdom stand? And if I cast out demons by Beelzebul, by whom do your sons cast them out? Therefore they will be your judges. But if it is by the Spirit of God that I cast out demons, then the kingdom of God has come upon you.

Jesus absolutely Believes in REAL SATAN with Real Kingdom and Power

WARNS that We are EITHER in Satan's Kingdom or Christ's Kingdom

Today BEST Selling Books, Movies – Wizards, Vampires, Witches, Demons

But NO – We Moderns are Convinced – NO Satan! – Just way he Wants it!!

Pharisees EAGER to Trap Jesus > MAGIC was a CAPITAL OFFENSE

Inconsistency of Pharisees' – All Healing from God – Hospital OR Herbs

Pharisees Healed by God's Power > Same as Jesus did work by God's power

Josephus – RELIABLE Jewish Historian – Names specific Pharisee Healings

Satan is much too shrewd to liberate persons he has enslaved.

Omnipotent Power of God Needed to Overcome lesser Power of Devil

kingdom of God “has come” - present reality > Reason Come / Jesus Come

If Kingdom Come > because I Have Come, Then I Must be the King

b. Why Destroy a House?

v. 29 Or how can someone enter a strong man's house and plunder his goods, unless he first binds the strong man? Then indeed he may plunder his house.

Says Similar Thing with NEW Image > HOUSE of Strong Man

House OWNER – Strong Man – SATAN – Filled with STOLEN GOODS

...escape from the snare of the devil, after being captured by him to do his will.
2 Timothy 2.26

Jesus STRONGER than Strong Man Satan > Binds him, Robs his House

he seized the dragon, that ancient serpent, who is the devil and Satan, and bound him for a thousand years
Revelation 20.2

3. Two Roads

v. 30 Whoever is not with me is against me, and whoever does not gather with me scatters.

a. Cruising with the King With Jesus you will Gatherer

You cannot be neutral about Jesus - Kingdom come in Jesus

Demands of Kingdom > Submit to Jesus' Rule as King, Neutrality Impossible

ROAD you will TRAVEL > BUMPY and DANGEROUS > Shadows of CROSS

Jesus always Demands a Decision - Deliberate Submission to His Rule

A disciple is not above his teacher, nor a servant above his master. It is enough for the disciple to be like his teacher, and the servant like his master. If they have called the master of the house Beelzebul, how much more will they malign those of his household.
Matthew 10.24,25

In its annual "World Watch" report, which ranks the 50 countries where persecution of Christians is most severe, the group said the past year "will go down in history for having the highest level of global persecution of Christians in the modern era" and suggested that "the worst is yet to come."

Washington Post, April 7, 2015

b. Driving with the Devil Against Jesus – Scatterer

For the one who is not against us is for us. Mark 9.40

Think you do not care about Jesus One Way or Another

If you are not For Him, you are Actually Opposing Him

Live in Territory of China – Not Against China –

I just want to Set Up my OWN Gov't / Just want to PRINT my Own Money!

Scientific Worldview – Live in Dorm filled with Many Religions

Not Easy to believe in Unseen Spiritual World – Follow Unseen Jesus!

These are HIS Words – Believe or Reject – Follow Him or Turn Away

Cannot FIGHT Satan in own Strength – TV Preachers yell "Satan I bind You!"

But when the archangel Michael, contending with the devil...he did not presume to pronounce a blasphemous judgment, but said, "The Lord rebuke you." Jude 9

Martin Luther – At Home – Devil knocks on Door – Wait – Jesus! It's for You!

4. Two Warnings

a. Balance of Forgiveness

vs. 31,32 Therefore I tell you, every sin and blasphemy will be forgiven people, but the blasphemy against the Spirit will not be forgiven. And whoever speaks a word against the Son of Man will be forgiven, but whoever speaks against the Holy Spirit will not be forgiven, either in this age or in the age to come.

Refusal to believe is Dangerous - One Sin leads to Another

The clearer a man's knowledge of the nature of the Gospel, the greater the sin, if he willfully refuses to repent and believe...The unconverted children of godly parents, the unconverted members of evangelical congregations are the hardest people on earth to impress. They seem past feeling. The same fire that melts the wax hardens to clay...light in the head, but hatred of the truth in the heart...blackness of darkness forever.

J.C. Ryle

Fear that Might have Sinned Unforgivably > Best Proof you Have NOT

“Those who fear they have committed the unpardonable sin give a good sign they have not.”

Matthew Henry

How can you be FORGIVEN Speaking Against Jesus and NOT Holy Spirit

Because Jesus is THE CHRIST – FILLED with Holy Spirit beyond Measure

Ministry on Earth – Not in OWN Divine Power – Gave it Up for Season...

though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, but made himself nothing, taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men

Philippians 2.6,7

v. 28 it is by the Spirit of God that I cast out demons

Jesus MINISTRY was IN THE Spirit of God / Not IN His Divine Strength

This situation existed only *while Christ was ministering on earth*. Jesus did not appear any different from any other Jewish man. To speak against Christ could be forgiven *while He was on earth*...Is there an 'unpardonable sin' today? Yes, it is the final rejection of Jesus Christ. Warren Wiersbe

Pharisees: Called Good, Evil, and Evil, Good > Work of God – DEMONIC REJECTION of ONLY Way of SALVATION – Way, Truth, Life > NO, Thanks!

There is sin that leads to death; I do not say that one should pray for that. ¹ John 5.16

If someone WANTS to Know God, Be Forgiven, and Rejects Jesus – No Hope

The unforgivable sin is the deliberate final rejection of the clear evidence of the work of God. Joe Kapolyo, Zambia

Note MERCY even in STRONG Warning

vs. 31 Therefore I tell you, every sin and blasphemy will be forgiven people

What about driving under the influence? Every sin will be forgiven. What about cheating on your exam? Every sin will be forgiven. What about getting your girlfriend pregnant? Every sin will be forgiven. What about having an abortion? Every sin will be forgiven. What about lying under oath? Every sin will be forgiven. What about backbiting? Every sin will be forgiven. What about cheating on your husband? Every sin will be forgiven. What about loving money more than God? Every sin will be forgiven. What about experimenting with homosexuality? Every sin will be forgiven. What about murder? Every sin will be forgiven. Douglas Sean O'Donnell

FORGIVEN in Christ Alone – Gospel has No Limits – Forgiveness thru FAITH

For if we go on sinning deliberately after receiving the knowledge of the truth, there no longer remains a sacrifice for sins, but a fearful expectation of judgment, and a fury of fire that will consume the adversaries. Hebrews 10.26,27

NO Other Savior – No Other Gospel – No Way, Truth, Life but Jesus Alone

If you are IN CHRIST – Cannot be LOST – He will Finish Saving Work

If you Close to Christ – Even in Church, Pastor! – But not IN Christ – Lost!

b. Bad Mouths need New Hearts

vs. 33-37 “Either make the tree good and its fruit good, or make the tree bad and its fruit bad, for the tree is known by its fruit. You brood of vipers! How can you speak good, when you are evil? For out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaks. The good person out of his good treasure brings forth good, and the evil person out of his evil treasure brings forth evil. I tell you, on the day of judgment people will give account for every careless word they speak, for by your words you will be justified, and by your words you will be condemned.”

Problem is In Us - Very Nature: “brood of vipers” - Directed at Pharisees

Words we Speak Reveal our Heart’s Condition

We say “I did not MEAN to SAY THAT!” – God says YES, YOU DID!

vs 36, 37 - Matthew only – Verses I HATE Most in ALL the Bible

Last 2 verses - Directed to “all men” – US - “For by *your* words...

“But I tell you ...” Formal Introduction > Very Important Saying

Verses More Sobering than Jesus’ Teaching about Unforgivable Sin

Death and life are in the power of the tongue Proverbs 18.21

Previous Section – Intentional DENIAL – Flat Out REFUSAL of Grace

Here > just “Careless” or Idle Words > Speak DOZEN of them Every DAY

Jesus: Even these Words are Sufficient to Condemn You at God’s Judgment

Can you understand how serious this is and how desperate it makes your case?

A careless word would be the *least* offensive act you have committed.

If even Single Careless Word is Sufficient to Condemn you at God’s Judgment, how Much More the other Very Evil Evils you have Done?

How can we escape God’s judgment? - We Cannot, We Need a Savior

My sin—O, the bliss of this glorious thought—
My sin, not in part but the whole,
Is nailed to the cross, and I bear it no more.
Praise the Lord. Praise the Lord, O my soul.

What is the remedy? - Radical Change of Heart

New Heart comes thru New Birth > Work of God in Salvation

If you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that
God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. Romans 10.9

Matthew 12.²² Then a demon-oppressed man who was blind and mute was brought to him, and he healed him, so that the man spoke and saw.²³ And all the people were amazed, and said, "Can this be the Son of David?"²⁴ But when the Pharisees heard it, they said, "It is only by Beelzebul, the prince of demons, that this man casts out demons."²⁵ Knowing their thoughts, he said to them, "Every kingdom divided against itself is laid waste, and no city or house divided against itself will stand.²⁶ And if Satan casts out Satan, he is divided against himself. How then will his kingdom stand?²⁷ And if I cast out demons by Beelzebul, by whom do your sons cast them out? Therefore they will be your judges.²⁸ But if it is by the Spirit of God that I cast out demons, then the kingdom of God has come upon you.²⁹ Or how can someone enter a strong man's house and plunder his goods, unless he first binds the strong man? Then indeed he may plunder his house.³⁰ Whoever is not with me is against me, and whoever does not gather with me scatters.³¹ Therefore I tell you, every sin and blasphemy will be forgiven people, but the blasphemy against the Spirit will not be forgiven.³² And whoever speaks a word against the Son of Man will be forgiven, but whoever speaks against the Holy Spirit will not be forgiven, either in this age or in the age to come.³³ "Either make the tree good and its fruit good, or make the tree bad and its fruit bad, for the tree is known by its fruit.³⁴ You brood of vipers! How can you speak good, when you are evil? For out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaks.³⁵ The good person out of his good treasure brings forth good, and the evil person out of his evil treasure brings forth evil.³⁶ I tell you, on the day of judgment people will give account for every careless word they speak,³⁷ for by your words you will be justified, and by your words you will be condemned."