

Magnolia Missionary Baptist Church of Beaumont
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Superintendent: Ordained Minister Samuel O. Simon
Lesson #6 July 4, 2023 - July 9, 2023
Lesson Teacher: Deaconess Elaine Reed

Unit II: JESUS Envisions the Kingdom

Subject: A Demonstration of Power

Text: Matthew 12: 22-32

Key Verse:

If I cast out devils by the Spirit of GOD, then the kingdom of GOD is come unto you.

(Matthew 12: 28, KJV)

Lesson Pointers:

- 1) A Kingdom of Division (Matthew 12: 22-27)**
- 2) A Kingdom of Deliverance (Matthew 12: 28-32)**

Key Terms:

- 1. Blasphemy-slander; abuse or scurrilous language.**
- 2. Demon-possessed-to be possessed by a demon; “possessed with a devil”**
- 3. Pharisees-members of a Jewish religious sect.**

Background:

As believers, we trust that healing comes from GOD, even if the healing does not come in the form we expected or preferred. We as Christians believe in the power of GOD through CHRIST JESUS. GOD has all power, including the power to heal and forgive sin. GOD is sovereign and does not typically operate on-demand, meaning that human does not drive HIM nor compels HIM to do anything beyond the scope of His will and purpose.

Biblical Context:

The Pharisees’ opposition to and hostility against JESUS grew to the point where they were planning and plotting to kill Him. The gospel writer Matthew recorded a series of incidents showing the nature of the Pharisees’ hostility. In the early verses of chapter 12, he presents the Pharisees’ opposition to the plucking of grain on the Sabbath. In verses 9-12, Matthew highlights the Pharisees’ negative reaction to JESUS’ healing on the Sabbath. In this week’s lesson, Matthews records the Pharisees’ opposition to CHRIST regarding the expulsion of demons. The power CHRIST demonstrates challenges selfish nations regarding personal power and authority. This is the fundamental basis of each of the Pharisees’ challenges to JESUS and often the basic challenge of those who reject the chance to get their full faith in CHRIST.

Lesson Point # 1

- A Kingdom of Division (Matthew 12:22-27)**

GOD fulfilled His promises to redeem His people. JESUS fulfills this promise as Emmanuel (“GOD with us”). After JESUS had directly rebuked the Pharisees and proved HIS status through word and deed, large crowds followed Him as He continued to perform healing miracles (see vss.15-16).

Then came to JESUS a man who was demon-possessed and unable to speak (vs.22). The healing that was performed by JESUS was so profound that the man was released from spiritual infirmity (demon-possessed), and physical infirmity-he was then able to see and speak (vs.22). “All the people were amazed” and began to ponder whether JESUS could be the Messiah, “the son of David” (vs. 23). The atmosphere was positive but the bitter, jealous Pharisees, who had been plotting against JESUS, began to speak negatively, casting doubt (vs. 24). They were saying such things as, “this fellow” (JESUS) cast demons out by the power of Beelzebub, the prince of the devils (vs. 24). This was an attempt by the Pharisees to stir deep division within the crowd in an effort to discredit JESUS’ ministry. First of all they tried to cast a seed of doubt by disrespecting JESUS’ authoritative power, by saying He was not a prophet, priest, or a teacher. The Pharisees just point blank refused to honor JESUS. Secondly the Pharisees were bold in challenging that JESUS was empowered to do miracles by the power of demonic forces, especially those of Beelzebub. JESUS spoke to clarify that a house, city, or kingdom that is divided against itself cannot last (vs. 25). This is also true of Satan, for it is written, “If Satan drives out Satan, he is divided against himself. How can his kingdom stand?” (vs. 26 NIV). JESUS left the Pharisees with a powerful question; if He cast out demons by the power of the devil, then by whom did their people (Children of the faith) cast out demons (vs. 27)?

Lesson Pointer #2

- **A Kingdom of Deliverance (Matthew 12:28-32)**

The kingdom of GOD is unified, not divided by words or deeds. It is a kingdom of deliverance. Humanity often seeks to perpetuate doubt only to make themselves appear favorably, just as those who claim to serve the LORD GOD. This is the same thing the Pharisees were trying to do. They had no response to JESUS’ question. JESUS says their response would be their judge (vs. 27b). A man’s life had been changed for the Glory of GOD. To acknowledge GOD as the source of the miracle would just affirm what JESUS had just stated and validate what the people were seeing. If the miracle was of divine origin, then all must acknowledge that “the kingdom of GOD has come upon you (vs 28 NIV).” JESUS poses another question; to conquer a strong man requires binding him and rendering him helpless; otherwise, he will continue to fight (vs. 29). Religious leaders who cannot stand and affirm the work of the LORD are working against the LORD’S work. The source of JESUS’ power and authority is the Spirit of GOD. The Pharisees committed blasphemy against the Holy Spirit when they credit Satan for JESUS’ healing works. JESUS states (vs. 32) that this sin “shall not be forgiven...neither in this world, neither in the world to come.” JESUS’ warning should not be overlooked or taken lightly, NO, NO. but neither should the mercy and forgiveness of GOD.