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Calvary Chapel Central Phoenix

MATTHEW

Chapter 12:34-50

ONLY THE WICKED AND PERVERSE NEED A SIGN

I. INTRODUCTION

A. Good morning and I pray that you know how much the Lord loves you!

1. Before I start the study, I want to fill you in on Pastor Dan.

a) Not feeling well for a few days (breathing)

(1) Thought it was Acid Reflux

b) Monday evening, he was helping Aaren with a shelf at home and felt like he was going to pass out.

(1) Went to the emergency center and found that he had blood clots in his lungs.

(2) Hospitalized Monday night - clots removed Tuesday and went home Wednesday.

(a) He is doing well, and Dr's have told him to take a break and rest up.

(b) I know Pastor Dan pretty well, and he will be wanting to get back here before their recommended time!

B. This morning, we pick up our study in **Matthew Chapter 12** with a little recap from **verses 34-37**.

1. The Pharisees are upset because it seems Jesus isn't playing by their rules.

a) When He cast the demon out of the man with the withered hand on the Sabbath, they accuse Him of doing it by the power of satan.

b) To which He said to them **Matthew 12:34-37 (NKJV) — 34 Brood of vipers! How can you, being evil, speak good things? For out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaks. 35 A good man out of the good treasure of his heart brings forth good things, and an evil man out of the evil treasure brings forth evil things. 36 But I say to you that for every idle word men may speak, they will give account of it in the day of judgment. 37 For by your words you will be justified, and by your words you will be condemned."**

(1) Their words betrayed them! They were not good men, nor was what came out of their hearts.

(2) And you may remember this is where Jesus drew the line – when they began attributing God's word to the work of satan!

(a) And that is where we pick up our study.

II. MATTHEW 12:38 (NKJV) — 38 THEN SOME OF THE SCRIBES AND PHARISEES ANSWERED, SAYING, "TEACHER, WE WANT TO SEE A SIGN FROM YOU."

A. Luke tell us: **Luke 11:16 (NKJV) — 16 Others, testing Him, sought from Him a sign from heaven.**

1. So, as if accusing Him of getting His power from satan wasn't enough - they want

Him to “perform” right then and there, but it is not a sincere request. It is another test.

- a) The first group had “muddied the waters” on the Lord’s credibility, and this other group want a sign from “heaven” - to prove that His power comes from the Lord – not satan.
 - (1) And notice how they try to butter Him up buy calling Him “Teacher.”
 - (2) A person can call Jesus anything he wants, but until they call Him “Savior” – they have missed the point!

III. MATTHEW 12:39 (NKJV) — 39 BUT HE ANSWERED AND SAID TO THEM, “AN EVIL AND ADULTEROUS GENERATION SEEKS AFTER A SIGN, AND NO SIGN WILL BE GIVEN TO IT EXCEPT THE SIGN OF THE PROPHET JONAH.

- A. This must have stung a little. They asked for a sign and Jesus says that only an evil and adulterous generation seeks a sign. You have heard the old saying, “If the shoe fits.....?”
 - 1. Jesus is saying that THEY are evil and adulterous.
 - 2. Throughout scripture a proper relationship with the Lord is compared to a good marriage.
 - a) If their relationship with the Lord was pure, they would not need a sign, but because they have other “loves” in their lives – their unfaithfulness keeps them from seeing Jesus for who and what He is - Messiah.
 - b) But he does give them a look at His death and resurrection through the Prophet Jonah.

IV. MATTHEW 12:40 (NKJV) — 40 FOR AS JONAH WAS THREE DAYS AND THREE NIGHTS IN THE BELLY OF THE GREAT FISH, SO WILL THE SON OF MAN BE THREE DAYS AND THREE NIGHTS IN THE HEART OF THE EARTH.

- A. But we shouldn’t make the mistake of assuming that they understand this – because they do not!
 - 1. I want to make a note here - that Jesus is referencing Jonah being swallowed by AND ending up in - the belly of a “great fish”.
 - a) Sceptics and the deconstructionists alike - believe this is just a fairy tale.
 - b) If that were the case - then we would have a problem with Jesus being the Messiah!
 - (1) He is also foretelling of His own death and resurrection!

V. MATTHEW 12:41 (NKJV) — 41 THE MEN OF NINEVEH WILL RISE UP IN THE JUDGMENT WITH THIS GENERATION AND CONDEMN IT, BECAUSE THEY REPENTED AT THE PREACHING OF JONAH; AND INDEED A GREATER THAN JONAH IS HERE.

- A. The episode with Jonah and the “great fish” happened when Jonah was running from the Lord because he did not want to go to Nineveh!
 - 1. In Jonah’s eyes they were not worth saving and he did everything he could to get out of it, but in the end the entire population repented and got right with the Lord!
 - a) THEY – would set in judgment of the Pharisees, because they listened to

Jonah and repented. The Pharisees (Judah) had Jesus (much greater than Jonah) yet would not listen nor repent.

VI. MATTHEW 12:42 (NKJV) — 42 THE QUEEN OF THE SOUTH WILL RISE UP IN THE JUDGMENT WITH THIS GENERATION AND CONDEMN IT, FOR SHE CAME FROM THE ENDS OF THE EARTH TO HEAR THE WISDOM OF SOLOMON; AND INDEED A GREATER THAN SOLOMON IS HERE.

- A. In **1 Kings Chapter 10** – the Queen of Sheba heard of Solomon’s great wisdom given to him by the Lord and she came to test that wisdom by asking him questions.
1. Yet the one who gave Solomon that wisdom was in their presence, and they did not recognize Him.
 2. Now please keep in mind that Jesus is thinking about the wicked and adulterous generation that has asked for a sign when He says what He says next!

VII. MATTHEW 12:43–45 (NKJV) — 43 “WHEN AN UNCLEAN SPIRIT GOES OUT OF A MAN, HE GOES THROUGH DRY PLACES, SEEKING REST, AND FINDS NONE. 44 THEN HE SAYS, ‘I WILL RETURN TO MY HOUSE FROM WHICH I CAME.’ AND WHEN HE COMES, HE FINDS IT EMPTY, SWEEPED, AND PUT IN ORDER. 45 THEN HE GOES AND TAKES WITH HIM SEVEN OTHER SPIRITS MORE WICKED THAN HIMSELF, AND THEY ENTER AND DWELL THERE; AND THE LAST STATE OF THAT MAN IS WORSE THAN THE FIRST. SO SHALL IT ALSO BE WITH THIS WICKED GENERATION.”

- A. Jesus is talking about reformation without death and resurrection!
1. In other words, just trying to be good or “get it together” without being born again.
 2. We know that no evil spirit can possess a Christian – contrary to what some “word of faith” teachers teach.
 - a) **2 Corinthians 6:14–16 (NKJV) — 14 Do not be unequally yoked together with unbelievers. For what fellowship has righteousness with lawlessness? And what communion has light with darkness? 15 And what accord has Christ with Belial? Or what part has a believer with an unbeliever? 16 And what agreement has the temple of God with idols? For you are the temple of the living God. As God has said: “I will dwell in them And walk among them. I will be their God, And they shall be My people.”**
 - b) So, this is in reference to the unsaved, “religious” person who thinks themselves to be OK with the Lord but in reality their god is satan. This is a pretty accurate description of the people who have asked Him for a sign!
 - (1) If this evil spirit is cast out, without putting Jesus in its place – it will just return with 7 buddies!
 - (a) Being “good” in one’s own eyes is not the same as being born-again!
 - (b) The Pharisees were trying to be good according to the Law, but they grew more evil each time they were confronted with the Lord and rejected Him!

VIII. CONCLUSION

A. **Matthew 12:46–50 (NKJV) — 46** While He was still talking to the multitudes, behold, His mother and brothers stood outside, seeking to speak with Him. **47** Then one said to Him, “Look, Your mother and Your brothers are standing outside, seeking to speak with You.” **48** But He answered and said to the one who told Him, **“Who is My mother and who are My brothers?”** **49** And He stretched out His hand toward His disciples and said, **“Here are My mother and My brothers!** **50** **For whoever does the will of My Father in heaven is My brother and sister and mother.”**

1. Jesus drives home His point with this last statement.
 - a) He is saying that there is a spiritual bond between the Lord and His children that is stronger than any other bond known to man!
 - (1) In essence He is telling the wicked and perverse generation that has accused Him of casting out demons in the name of satan that they are not His family, nor do they even know Him!
 - (2) And as He points to the disciples, as example of His true family: men that were following Him and thereby doing the will of His Father!
 - (a) They didn’t need a sign – they had a loving relationship with Jesus.
2. Let me close with this – which “camp” do you find yourself in this morning?
 - a) The camp that says, “I won’t believe until I see a sign from God Himself.”
 - b) Or the camp that says, “I have experienced God’s love through Jesus – I don’t need a sign!