

Study Guide
The Kingdom Has Come
Matthew 12:22-37

Context: This passage reveals the climax of the story. It's the ultimate rejection of the Messiah. The Holy Spirit had been working to reveal truth to Israel through many prophets and signs. Here came the answer, and it was ludicrous and detrimental.

1. Read Matthew 12:22-25a. Discuss this ultimate rejection of Christ. Why was it so detrimental?
2. Read Matthew 12:25b-30. Discuss the arguments Jesus uses to respond to the verdict of the Pharisees (*Satan v Satan- Not! God v Satan- Yes!*). Discuss the idea in verse 30 that there are only two possible sides you can be on.
3. Read Matthew 12:31-32. Do you ever wonder if you could sin yourself right out of the love of God? Discuss. Does God forgive every sin? (see also 1 John 1:8-9). What is it about the function of the Holy Spirit that puts a person outside of the possibility of being reconciled to God (see John 16:8)?
4. Read Matthew 12:33-37. Notice that there are two kinds of people (good/evil), and that we all need a complete heart change for there to be any lasting "fruit". Discuss.

Conclusion

How can we learn to be more responsive to the still small voice of the Holy Spirit in our lives? What would "good fruit" look like in your life?

Message Slides

Responding to the Kingdom

Big Idea- Respond Humbly to the Holy Spirit!

A. The Ultimate Rejection (v.22-25a)

²²Then a demon-oppressed man who was blind and mute was brought to him, and he healed him, so that the man spoke and saw. ²³And all the people were amazed, and said, "Can this be the Son of David?"

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

²⁵Knowing their thoughts, he said to them,

1. Satan v Satan- Not! (v.25b-28)

"Every kingdom divided against itself is laid waste, and no city or house divided against itself will stand. ²⁶And if Satan casts out Satan, he is divided against himself. How then will his kingdom stand? ²⁷And if I cast out demons by Beelzebul, by whom do your sons cast them out? Therefore they will be your judges. ²⁸But if it is by the Spirit of God that I cast out demons, then the kingdom of God has come upon you.

2. God v Satan- Yes! (v.29-30)

²⁹Or 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. ³⁰Whoever is not with me is against me, and whoever does not gather with me scatters.

3. The Unpardonable sin! (v.31-32)

³¹Therefore I tell you, every sin and blasphemy will be forgiven people, but the blasphemy against the Spirit will not be forgiven. ³²And 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.

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1 John 1:8- "If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us."

1 John 1:9 "But if we confess...He is faithful and just..."

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Big Idea- Respond Humbly to the Holy Spirit!**B. Good Tree/Bad Tree (v.33-37)**

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. ³⁴You brood of vipers! How can you speak good, when you are evil? For out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaks.³⁵The good person out of his good treasure brings forth good, and the evil person out of his evil treasure brings forth evil. ³⁶I tell you, on the day of judgment people will give account for every careless word they speak, ³⁷for by your words you will be justified, and by your words you will be condemned.”

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1. Two Kinds of People
2. Fruits Reveal Roots
3. Roots Produce Fruits

Big Idea- Respond Humbly to the Holy Spirit!