

Binding or Blaspheming?

Matthew 12:22-24 ²²Then a demon-possessed man *who was* blind and mute was brought to Jesus, and He healed him, so that the mute man spoke and saw.

Physical afflictions caused by demonic oppression often mirror what the kingdom of darkness is doing spiritually: causing blind eyes and deaf ears.

The Pharisees were not physically blind or deaf, but spiritually, they were both! The same oppression had deceived them and hidden the truth from them.

The people, however, saw the prophecies being fulfilled in Jesus, and revelation was dawning.

What might they have seen in Jesus?

Isaiah 61:1 The Spirit of the Lord God is upon me, Because the Lord has anointed me To bring good news to the afflicted; He has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, To proclaim liberty to captives And freedom to prisoners

Psalms 110:1-2 The Lord says to my Lord: "Sit at My right hand Until I make Your enemies a footstool for Your feet."
²The Lord will stretch forth Your strong scepter from Zion, *saying*, "Rule in the midst of Your enemies."

So it follows...

Matthew 12:23 ²³All the crowds were amazed, and were saying, "This man cannot be the Son of David, can he?"

The Pharisees, who claimed to serve God but served the devil's purposes, could not allow the truth to surface.

Matthew 12:24 ²⁴But when the Pharisees heard *this*, they said, "This man casts out demons only by Beelzebul the ruler of the demons."

The Pharisees sinned grievously against Jesus and the Holy Spirit, calling the work of God the work of demons.

This began what is now a worn out strategy- using the fear of evil influence to prevent the ministry of the Holy Spirit.

Be careful....that might be of the Devil...

This sin, when committed with knowledge, is called the Blasphemy of the Holy Spirit. Whoever commits it is cut off from God's eternal kingdom, from grace and salvation, and cannot be forgiven.

Worth defining. You may have heard... Denying Christ, persistent rejection of the convicting work of the Spirit

Matthew 12:25-27 ²⁵And knowing their thoughts Jesus said to them, "Any kingdom divided against itself is laid waste; and any city or house divided against itself will not stand. ²⁶If Satan casts out Satan, he is divided against himself; how then will his kingdom stand? ²⁷If I by Beelzebul cast out demons, by whom do your sons cast *them* out? For this reason they will be your judges.

Knowing their THOUGHTS... What were their thoughts? That Jesus was really from God... but they had too much to lose if He was allowed to remain.

John 3:1-2 Now there was a man of the Pharisees, named Nicodemus, a ruler of the Jews; ²this man came to Jesus by night and said to Him, "Rabbi, we know that You have come from God *as* a teacher; for no one can do these signs that You do unless God is with him."

Mark 15:9-10 ⁹Pilate answered them, saying, "Do you want me to release for you the King of the Jews?" ¹⁰For he was aware that the chief priests had handed Him over because of envy.

Nicodemus told the Pharisee's dark secret: they KNEW that Jesus' miracles and ministry were from God, but they wanted power over the people, promotion with Rome, and envied Jesus' power with God and man.

To discredit Jesus' ministry they said, KNOWING IT WAS A LIE, that Jesus did His miracles by Satanic power.

This is often the case: slander is from envy- feeling left out by God, that God has favorites

This is the blasphemy of the Holy Spirit; It CANNOT be forgiven, but it also CANNOT be committed accidentally.

But we are not those who slander the Holy Spirit for our own gain; we embrace the Holy Spirit and His work!

Behold the heritage of the church who walks by the Spirit in the authority of Christ:

²⁸ But if I cast out demons by the Spirit of God, then the kingdom of God has come upon you. ²⁹ Or how can anyone enter the strong man's house and carry off his property, unless he first binds the strong *man*? And then he will plunder his house. ³⁰ He who is not with Me is against Me; and he who does not gather with Me scatters.

To bind a strong man and enter his house we must be...STRONGER! Whoever is with Jesus goes with Him to the plunder!

Everything in the strong man's house is stolen...your child, your wellbeing, your spiritual life, your victories

³¹ "Therefore I say to you, any sin and blasphemy shall be forgiven people, but blasphemy against the Spirit shall not be forgiven. ³² Whoever speaks a word against the Son of Man, it shall be forgiven him; but whoever speaks against the Holy Spirit, it shall not be forgiven him, either in this age or in the *age* to come.

Anyone who steals this willfully from the children of God is doing the work of the devil

Have I suppressed or criticized works done in Jesus' name and power, or the gifts/expression of the Holy Spirit?

Have I thought I may have committed the unforgiveable sin? Today is a day of liberty for you!

Do you want to know the power and authority of the Spirit of God? Let's ask the Holy Spirit to work through us in Jesus' Name!