

BLASPHEMY AGAINST THE HOLY SPIRIT
(Matthew 12:22-32)

- I. The ACTIVITY (Matt. 12:22)
 - A. Jesus encountered a DEMON-POSSESSED man who was BLIND and MUTE
 - B. Jesus HEALED him, restoring SPEECH and SIGHT
- II. The AMAZEMENT (Matt. 12:23)
 - A. This ASTONISHED the CROWDS
 - B. They wondered if Jesus MIGHT BE the MESSIAH
- III. The ACCUSATION (Matt. 12:24)
 - A. The Pharisees could not DISPUTE the MIRACLE
 - 1. Required SUPERNATURAL POWER
 - 2. Could be only GOD'S or SATAN'S
 - B. They accused Jesus of using SATAN'S POWER (cf. 9:34; 10:25)
- IV. The ANSWER (Matt. 12:25-30)
 - A. Their accusation was ABSURD: a DIVIDED kingdom will FALL (12:25b-26)
 - B. Their accusation was HYPOCRITICAL: used a DIFFERENT standard for their OWN exorcists (12:27)

C. Their accusation was DEFIANT: denied what they KNEW to be TRUE
(12:28-30)

1. He OBVIOUSLY worked by “the Spirit of GOD”
2. That PROVED He’d come to introduce the KINGDOM
3. His despoiling Satan’s “house” meant He is STRONGER than SATAN

D. Those who don’t ACCEPT Him are OPPOSING Him

V. The ANATHEMA (Matt. 12:31-32)

A. God offers COMPREHENSIVE forgiveness

1. Any SIN can be forgiven
2. Any BLASPHEMY can be forgiven

B. The ONLY exception is “BLASPHEMY against the SPIRIT”

1. This is not CURSING in the Spirit’s NAME
2. This is not DENYING the reality of MIRACLES
3. This is not Israel’s NATIONAL sin of rejecting CHRIST
4. This is may be PERSISTENT UNBELIEF
5. This is probably DEFIANTLY and DECEPTIVELY identifying the Holy Spirit as SATAN