

REFORMATION OR RELATIONSHIP?
(Matthew 12:43-50)

- I. The DANGER of Reformation (Matt. 12:43-45)
 - A. Gaining FREEDOM from an “UNCLEAN spirit” (12:43)
 - 1. Possibly by MORAL CHOICE to FORSAKE a particular SIN
 - 2. Probably by GOD’S POWER to EXPEL the DEMON
 - 3. The DEMON wandered RESTLESSLY
 - B. Managing to ESTABLISH a more ORDERLY life (12:44b)
 - 1. Better CLEANED
 - 2. Better ORGANIZED
 - C. Remaining NEUTRAL toward CHRIST left it still UNOCCUPIED
 - 1. Permits the DEMON to RETURN (12:44a)
 - 2. Allows ACCESS for GREATER EVIL (12:45a)
 - 3. Produces a condition WORSE than at FIRST (12:45b)
 - D. Predicting the DESTINY of those who IGNORE Christ (12:45c)
 - 1. Have EXPERIENCED His BLESSING
 - 2. Have REJECTED His PERSON

- II. The POWER of Relationship (Matt. 12:46-50)
 - A. The TIMELY arrival of His FAMILY (12:46-47)
 - 1. His MOTHER and BROTHERS came (cf. 13:55-56)
 - 2. They waited OUTSIDE to SPEAK to Him
 - 3. Probably hoping to RESCUE Him from DEATH (12:14; cf. Mk. 3:21)
 - B. Using them as an ILLUSTRATION (12:48-50)
 - 1. He was not RENOUNCING His HUMAN family
 - 2. He was DEFINING His SPIRITUAL family
 - a. No one who BELIEVES is EXCLUDED
 - b. No one who does NOT BELIEVE is INCLUDED
 - C. The gospel is not a COMMAND to FORSAKE EVIL, but a CALL to ACCEPT CHRIST
 - 1. REFORMATION can merely change one's BEHAVIOR
 - 2. RELATIONSHIP with Christ will change one's DESTINY