

Resurrection Life of Jesus Church

THE GOSPEL OF MATTHEW

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PART 31: BLASPHEMING THE HOLY SPIRIT

SABBATH QUESTIONS

From the time Jesus began public ministry, the Jewish leadership was constantly plotting to murder Him. The God-man and the disciples were walking through a grain field on a sabbath day. They were hungry, so they picked kernels and ate as they traveled through the area. **Matthew 12:1**

Pharisees spied on the Son of God, and when they saw the actions of the apostles, they told Jesus it was not lawful to pick corn on the sabbath. **verse 2**

Jesus responded by referencing the actions of King David. **verse 3-4; 1 Samuel 21:1-6**

The God-man pointed out that the priests were themselves breaking the law on the sabbath when they engaged in the slaughter and sacrifice of lambs. **Matthew 12:5-6; Numbers 28:8-10**

Mercy and grace are what Jesus is about in addition to being the Lord of the Sabbath. **Matthew 12: 7-8**

Jesus was not going to yield on the sabbath question, and as He entered the local synagogue, the Son of God encountered a man with a withered hand. These self-serving religious leaders slyly asked if it was lawful to heal the sick on the sabbath. **verses 9-10**

Jesus said that if a sheep falls into a pit on the sabbath, won't the owner get his animal out? The man with the withered hand certainly has more value. It goes without saying that it is lawful to heal and do good on the sabbath day. **verses 11-12**

It must have been dramatic when Jesus instructed the man to stretch out his withered hand and see it instantly restored to normal. **verse 13**

DEPRAVITY OF THE PHARISEES

Any healing should bring joy to the people watching. Jesus didn't even touch the guy; He just told him to stretch it out – ostensibly so everyone could see – and the restoration took place supernaturally. But the Jewish leadership was totally possessed by demons and this great healing caused anger and hate to swell in them. **verse 14**

Jesus knew the time for Him to be killed was near so He just walked away. The crowds followed and He healed everyone that had a need. **verses 15**

THE PROPHET ISAIAH

Jesus used His vastly superior knowledge of the Old Testament and quoted a prophecy He had given to Isaiah some 700 years earlier. **verses 16-21**



ANOTHER SPECTACULAR HEALING

Someone brought a man that was deprived of sight and speech because he was possessed by evil spirits. It is one thing to cast out demons, but it is another thing entirely to cure a blind man and restore his ability to speak. **verse 22**

ANOTHER CLASH

When the Pharisees learned of this latest miracle, they knew it was impossible to deny. They decided to spin the story that Jesus was operating under the power of Beelzebub, the pagan god of the Philistine city of Ekron. **verse 24; 2 Kings 1:1-2**

Jesus knew that Beelzebub was none other than Satan and He told the crowd that no kingdom can stand if it is divided. If the God-man was aligned with Satan, how was it possible for Him to deal with the demon possessed man? Isn't that a kingdom divided against itself? **Matthew 12:25-26**

If this supernatural healing was done by the power of Beelzebub, what power did other Jews use when casting out demons? **verse 27**

However, if Jesus cast out the demons by the power of God, then it stands to reason that the kingdom of God had arrived to earth. **verse 28**

No one can enter and overcome a man's house without superior power of some kind. One simply can't break into a man's house and take his property unless he has been rendered helpless. This is exactly what a police SWAT team does when it exercises a search warrant.

It is likewise impossible to heal a demon possessed man unless your spiritual authority outranks the devils in that person. The healing was sufficient proof that Jesus had indeed overcome Satan. The fact that the man stood there seeing and speaking was proof that the Kingdom of Satan was subdued. **verse 29**

It is a bit of an enigma for someone who is not born again to claim to walk with Jesus and gather souls for Him. Pseudo-Christian religions like Roman Catholicism, Mormonism, Jehovah's Witnesses, etc. are – according to Jesus – scattering people. **verse 30**

BLASPHEMY OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

Blaspheming the Holy Spirit is a serious offense and it occurs when one ascribes God's work to that of Satan. When a person does something like what the Pharisees did with this divine healing, that offense will never be forgiven, even if you seek forgiveness later on!

Speaking ill of Jesus can be forgiven, but if you speak against Holy Spirit in such a manner, that transgression will carry forward into eternity. **verses 31-32**

Take note that Jesus was not addressing salvation; He was talking about being forgiven for speaking ill of the Holy Spirit. This is a deep subject and often misunderstood.

Blasphemy of the Holy Spirit occurs when one ascribes the work of God to the Devil.

THE DIFFERENT JUDGMENT SEATS

When a believer in Christ dies and his soul/spirit goes to heaven, there is an adjudication he must face. It is called the Judgment Seat of Christ. At this point it is not a matter of determining whether they are saved, but their eternal position in heaven and the associated rewards. **1 Corinthians 3:11-15; 2 Corinthians 5:8-11; Hebrews 10:26-31; Matthew 18:32-35**

Any believer in Christ engaging in blasphemy of the Holy Spirit will suffer great loss.

The Great White Throne Judgment takes place after the millennial kingdom. **Revelation 20:11-15**

TWO WAYS TO LOSE YOUR SALVATION

Is it possible to lose your salvation? Yes, there are two distinct ways to forfeit your salvation.

1. Taking the Mark of the Beast. **Revelation 14: 9-11**
2. Willfully removing portions of the Bible. **Revelation 22:19**

Remember, it's not so important how you begin your life after salvation, but how you finish it!

Do you have an ear to hear with?