

Matthew 12:22-30 The Choice that Each Man Must Make

Introduction: Text verse 30 – Until now Capernaum had been the headquarters for Jesus. But now the Pharisees had plotted to kill Him and Jesus left and went to the seashore and ministered to great crowds. There the events of our text took place.

I. A new awareness among the people, Verses 22-23.

- A. Jesus healed a man who was blind and dumb.
 - 1. This man was not blind and dumb naturally but by a demon spirit.
 - 2. Jesus cast out the demon and healed the man.
 - 3. This He had done on many occasions before.
- B. But it was almost as though it were the eyes of the masses that He had opened.
 - 1. Suddenly they saw that this was a fulfillment of prophecy concerning the Messiah, Isaiah 35:5-6.
 - 2. They asked “Is not this the son of David?”
 - 3. John the Baptist had declared Him to be the Messiah, the very Son of God, John 1:29, 34.
 - 4. The disciples had also declared Him to be the Messiah.
 - 5. Some all along had believed.
 - 6. But until now the masses had not seen this truth.
 - 7. Even now they were not altogether persuaded.

II. Opposition from the Pharisees, Verse 24.

- A. These are the men who had plotted to kill Jesus.
- B. As soon as they heard what the people were saying they came to interfere.
- C. They could not deny the miracle.
- D. The best they could do was to revive an old charge: They said that He cast out the demon by the power of Beelzebub. (The Philistine god of filth and flies whose name the Jews used to refer to Satan.)
- E. This would momentarily stop the enthusiasm of the crowd.

III. Jesus' rebuttal to their charge. Verses 25-29.

- A. Satan is too smart to be divided against his own forces, verses 25-26.
- B. The Pharisees own children (students) were taught by the Pharisees to cast out demons, verse 27.
 - 1. If it takes help from Beelzebub to cast them out, then they were accusing their own of teaming with Beelzebub.
 - 2. Now they would be divided and accused by their students.
- C. They obviously overlooked the possibility that He may have cast out the demon by the power of God. (In which case He is the Messiah – King) verse 28.
- D. He would have to be able to overcome demonic forces in order to cast the demon out, verse 29.

IV. Jesus presented them all with a choice, Verse 30.

- A. The one who does not choose Jesus is against Him.
- B. Some of the Pharisees had already made their choice.
- C. The disciples had already made theirs.
- D. But the decision of the Pharisees or of the disciples would not be imposed on the masses. (Each one could make his own choice. He must make his own choice.)
- E. Those who chose to believe should also choose to serve Him.

Conclusion:

So must each one do today.

You must decide either that Jesus can save or He cannot. You must decide to trust Him to save your soul or not.

If you decide to trust Him, then you are to number yourself with His followers to serve Him.

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