Sermon Notes September 22, 2019

**True Exorcism and the Unpardonable Sin**

**Matthew 12:22-24** Then a demon-oppressed man who was blind and mute was brought to him, and he healed him, so that the man spoke and saw. 23 And all the people were amazed, and said, “Can this be the Son of David?” 24 But when the Pharisees heard it, they said, “It is only by Beelzebul, the prince of demons, that this man casts out demons.”

**1. Jesus gives you “sight” and “voice” and “deliverance.”**

**Isaiah 35:5-6** Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf unstopped; then shall the lame man leap like a deer, and the tongue of the mute sing for joy.

**2. We cringe at the Pharisees wicked response. They call “good” “evil.”**

**Matthew 9:33-34** And when the demon had been cast out, the mute man spoke. And the crowds marveled, saying, “Never was anything like this seen in Israel.” 34 But the Pharisees said, “He casts out demons by the prince of demons.”

**Isaiah 5:20-21** Woe to those who call evil good and good evil, who put darkness for light and light for darkness, who put bitter for sweet and sweet for bitter! 21 Woe to those who are wise in their own eyes, and shrewd in their own sight!

**3. Pay attention to Jesus’ detailed response:**

**Matthew 12:25-31** Knowing their thoughts, he said to them, “Every kingdom divided against itself is laid waste, and no city or house divided against itself will stand. 26 And if Satan casts out Satan, he is divided against himself. How then will his kingdom stand? 27 And if I cast out demons by Beelzebul, by whom do your sons cast them out? Therefore they will be your judges. 28 But if it is by the Spirit of God that I cast out demons, then the kingdom of God has come upon you. 29 Or how can someone enter a strong man's house and plunder his goods, unless he first binds the strong man? Then indeed he may plunder his house. 30 Whoever is not with me is against me, and whoever does not gather with me scatters. 31 Therefore I tell you, every sin and blasphemy will be forgiven people, but the blasphemy against the Spirit will not be forgiven. 32 And whoever speaks a word against the Son of Man will be forgiven, but whoever speaks against the Holy Spirit will not be forgiven, either in this age or in the age to come.

1. Some people have absurd objections to Jesus.
2. Jesus teaches that his opponents are often inconsistent.
3. His opponents obscure the great work of the Holy Spirit and the arrival of the kingdom of God.
4. Jesus calls his disciples to be “with him” and to “gather” others to him.
5. Hear the condemnation of their sin, and heed the warning.

**1 John 1:9** If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

*In preparation for this message Pastor John is grateful for the insights of Ligon Duncan, Dan Doriani, William Hendriksen and the ESV study Bible.*

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