

05/10/2026

Pastor Dan Esh

Calvary Chapel Central Phoenix

Outlines: <http://www.calvarycentral.org/media>

RSS: <http://www.calvarycentral.org/feed>

MATTHEW

How Does He Do It?

Matthew 12:14-37

- I. Controversy
 - a. NKJV Headings for Matt 12:1-13
 - i. “Controversy Over Sabbath-Labor” and “Controversy Over Sabbath-Healing”
 - ii. Controversy - a prolonged, public dispute or debate involving strong opposing views, disagreements, or disapproval regarding a particular issue
 1. We love a good controversy – in fact our culture thrives on it – we watch it, share it, comment on it, and pick sides
 - iii. What salacious thing did Jesus do that stirred up such controversy?
 1. He met real human needs. His disciples had a snack on the Sabbath and He healed a man with a withered hand
 - b. Pharisees turn this into a controversy
 - i. It is not lawful to work and heal on the Sabbath – they ask questions, but the questions are loaded. They are not genuinely seeking the truth - they asked Him, saying, ‘Is it lawful to heal on the Sabbath?’—that they might accuse Him.”
 - ii. Jesus’ response - he is the true king; like David, he has been anointed, and He is on His way to taking His throne. He is more important than the Temple and all that goes on inside of it.
 1. Reminds them what God shared through the prophet Hosea - “I desire mercy and not sacrifice...”
 2. Jesus isn’t trying to be controversial for sake of controversy. Truth is only controversial to those who are unwilling to accept it
 - iii. Left the Pharisees with one question – how do we destroy Him?
 1. Not just kill – ruin, eliminate, remove Him completely
 2. They are losing control - their authority has been undermined and their hearts have been exposed

14 Then the Pharisees went out and plotted against Him, how they might destroy Him.

15 But when Jesus knew it, He withdrew from there. And great multitudes followed Him, and He healed them all. 16 Yet He warned them not to make Him known, 17 that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by Isaiah the prophet, saying:

***18 “Behold! My Servant whom I have chosen,
My Beloved in whom My soul is well pleased!
I will put My Spirit upon Him,
And He will declare justice to the Gentiles.***

***19 He will not quarrel nor cry out,
Nor will anyone hear His voice in the streets.***

***20 A bruised reed He will not break,
And smoking flax He will not quench,***

*Till He sends forth justice to victory;
21 And in His name Gentiles will trust.”*

- II. Sovereignty or Ingenuity
 - a. Is Jesus on the run?
 - i. When Jesus knew it, He withdrew from there – did He retreat? Did He fear what the Pharisees would do?
 - ii. ***great multitudes followed Him, and He healed them all. 16 Yet He warned them not to make Him known***
 - 1. Why not? Didn't Jesus come to bear witness to the truth? Wouldn't He want them to carry this message out?
 - 2. Modern day influencers would definitely be posting this to all their social media platforms
 - 3. Why is He suppressing the truth?
 - iii. That is exactly what His brothers asked Him in ***John 7:1 After these things Jesus walked in Galilee; for He did not want to walk in Judea, because the Jews sought to kill Him. 2 Now the Jews' Feast of Tabernacles was at hand. 3 His brothers therefore said to Him, "Depart from here and go into Judea, that Your disciples also may see the works that You are doing. 4 For no one does anything in secret while he himself seeks to be known openly. If You do these things, show Yourself to the world." 5 For even His brothers did not believe in Him. 6 Then Jesus said to them, "My time has not yet come, but your time is always ready. 7 The world cannot hate you, but it hates Me because I testify of it that its works are evil. 8 You go up to this feast. I am not yet going up to this feast, for My time has not yet fully come." 9 When He had said these things to them, He remained in Galilee.***
 - 1. That is exactly what Jesus told His mother in ***John 2:1 On the third day there was a wedding in Cana of Galilee, and the mother of Jesus was there. 2 Now both Jesus and His disciples were invited to the wedding. 3 And when they ran out of wine, the mother of Jesus said to Him, "They have no wine." 4 Jesus said to her, "Woman, what does your concern have to do with Me? My hour has not yet come."***
 - iv. The Pharisees plotted to destroy Him – that is a foreshadow of the cross – but it wasn't His time
 - b. Just as the God spoke through the prophet Isaiah in Isaiah 42 – the famous chapter that highlights “The Servant of the Lord”
 - i. The one who will declare justice to the nations and in His name the nations will put their trust
 - ii. He will not quarrel nor cry out, Nor will anyone hear His voice in the streets.
 - iii. He practically avoids premature conflict
 - 1. He isn't advancing His Kingdom by force or public confrontation, but by a quiet, deliberate faithfulness to His Father's plan
 - 2. He hasn't come to crush the broken or put out what little flame people have left
 - iv. While Jesus is healing bruised reeds, the Pharisees are trying to break them.
 - c. Jesus doesn't advance His Kingdom in worldly ways. What have we seen so far? – gentleness, kindness, mercy, coupled with true power and authority

- i. All this culminates in the ultimate act of humility - ***John 17:1 Jesus spoke these words, lifted up His eyes to heaven, and said: "Father, the hour has come***
 - 1. Jesus brings victory by being the suffering servant who suffers alongside the broken
- d. Here's an interesting truth. His enemies are also restrained by God's sovereignty
 - i. *John 7:30 - they sought to arrest him, but no one laid a hand on him, because his hour had not yet come*
 - ii. *John 8:20 - no one arrested him, because his hour had not yet come*
 - iii. *John 10:39 - they tried to seize him, but he escaped their hand*
 - iv. *John 19:11 - "You would have no authority over me at all unless it had been given you from above"*
 - 1. If God is sovereign and He restrained Jesus' enemies, why did Jesus still avoid stirring things up until the appointed time?
 - v. God's sovereignty works through ordinary obedience
 - 1. Noah builds an ark, even though God has already said he would save him
 - 2. The Spirit tells Paul he will testify in Rome, but Paul still uses legal protection, and strategy, and even his nephew's warning to avoid being caught and killed
 - 3. God's sovereignty is not an excuse for inaction – wise as serpents and humble as doves

22 Then one was brought to Him who was demon-possessed, blind and mute; and He healed him, so that the blind and mute man both spoke and saw. 23 And all the multitudes were amazed and said, "Could this be the Son of David?" 24 Now when the Pharisees heard it they said, "This fellow does not cast out demons except by Beelzebub (Lord of Flies or Lord of Filth, slang for devil without having to say his name), the ruler of the demons." 25 But Jesus knew their thoughts, and said to them: "Every kingdom divided against itself is brought to desolation, and every city or house divided against itself will not stand. 26 If Satan casts out Satan, he is divided against himself. How then will his kingdom stand? 27 And if I cast out demons by Beelzebub, by whom do your sons cast them out? Therefore they shall be your judges. 28 But if I cast out demons by the Spirit of God, surely the kingdom of God has come upon you. 29 Or how can one enter a strong man's house and plunder his goods, unless he first binds the strong man? And then he will plunder his house. 30 He who is not with Me is against Me, and he who does not gather with Me scatters abroad.

III. The Divided Kingdom

- a. The crowds wonder while the Pharisees deceive
 - i. Could this be the Son of David? Open, honest, natural question
 - ii. The Pharisees do not even ask the question – they make a statement
 - 1. "It is only by Beelzebub, the prince of demons, that this man casts out demons."
 - 2. They are not denying the work happened. They are attributing the work of God to Satan
 - iii. That alone highlights that the work Jesus was doing was supernatural – it couldn't be explained away
 - 1. It was so remarkable, so obvious, that you were left with only two options – this was God's work or the work of Satan
- b. Jesus exposes the nonsense behind their accusation

- i. When you build a house – do you hire a concrete company to lay the foundation, a carpenter to frame the house, a plumber, an electrician, a roofer, and then hire some to come in behind them and tear things down
- ii. satan wants control, he fights for control, what sense does it make that he would also set people free
 - 1. And you are being intellectually dishonest - If casting out demons means someone is working with satan, then what does that say about those in your community who do the same? Do you make the same accusation
- c. Here is what the exorcisms show
 - i. ***the kingdom of God has come upon you and you are either for me or against me***
 - 1. I have come to bind the strong man and plunder his house – just as Paul writes in Col 2 - *He disarmed the rulers and authorities and put them to open shame, by triumphing over them in Him.*” or like we read in Hebrews 2 *...that through death He might destroy the one who has the power of death, that is, the devil, and deliver all those who through fear of death were subject to lifelong slavery*
 - ii. Jesus clearly lays it out – pick a side - You must either acknowledge that this is the Spirit’s work or oppose it
 - 1. That is crucial for understanding what Jesus says next

31 “Therefore I say to you, every sin and blasphemy will be forgiven men, but the blasphemy against the Spirit will not be forgiven men. 32 Anyone who speaks a word against the Son of Man, it will be forgiven him; but whoever speaks against the Holy Spirit, it will not be forgiven him, either in this age or in the age to come. 33 “Either make the tree good and its fruit good, or else make the tree bad and its fruit bad; for a tree is known by its fruit. 34 Brood of vipers! How can you, being evil, speak good things? For out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaks. 35 A good man out of the good treasure of his heart brings forth good things, and an evil man out of the evil treasure brings forth evil things. 36 But I say to you that for every idle word men may speak, they will give account of it in the day of judgment. 37 For by your words you will be justified, and by your words you will be condemned.”

IV. The Sin of Blasphemy

- a. Jesus Christ Jesus Christ came into the world to save sinners – He freely gave His life as a sacrifice for us so that we may be forgiven of our sins
 - i. In Colossians Paul tells us Jesus took our list of debts – a list of every time we broke the righteous requirements of the law – every time we said, or thought, or did something that broke God’s heart and broke God’s law – and He nailed it to the cross
 - 1. Took those sins upon Himself – crucified them there – paying our debt
 - ii. How far does that forgiveness go? How far does it extend? At what point does Jesus say “You went too far. I came to forgive sins but that one is just too much, too messy”
 - 1. We would say Jesus came to forgive all sin. No one is outside the reach of God’s loving arms.
- b. Every sin and blasphemy will be forgiven men
 - i. Can we take a moment and celebrate that for a second? Every sin and blasphemy – what a gracious God we serve.
 - ii. Blasphemy – vilification – paint someone or something as the villain or the enemy

1. In this Jesus singles out the Holy Spirit – He even says anyone who speaks a word against Me, it will be forgiven;
- iii. So why is blasphemy against the Holy Spirit put in a different category?
 1. Because of the role of the Holy Spirit
 2. We know the role of the Spirit within the church – within in the lives of believers – what is role of the Spirit within an unbelieving world?
- c. Spoiler, Jesus is going to leave His disciples
 - i. ***John 16:5 “But now I go away to Him who sent Me, and none of you asks Me, ‘Where are You going?’ 6 But because I have said these things to you, sorrow has filled your heart. 7 Nevertheless I tell you the truth. It is to your advantage that I go away; for if I do not go away, the Helper will not come to you; but if I depart, I will send Him to you. 8 And when He has come, He will convict the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment: 9 of sin, because they do not believe in Me; 10 of righteousness, because I go to My Father and you see Me no more; 11 of judgment, because the ruler of this world is judged.***
 1. He will convict the world of sin
 2. A very specific sin - they do not believe in Me
 - a. The Holy Spirit reveals to the hearts of men the truth of salvation through Jesus Christ
 - b. And where there is repentance there is forgiveness. But where there is no repentance, there is no forgiveness
 - c. We are attributing evil to the work of the Holy Spirit – we are making the Holy Spirit of God out to be the villain
 3. When we reject the truth of Jesus Christ as revealed to us by the Holy Spirit we are calling the Holy Spirit a liar – who is the father of lies?
 - d. Inspect the Fruit
 - i. This is why you are reacting to me the way you are. Your words reveal exactly who you are.
 1. You wear the costume of Godly men, but you are children of the devil - offspring of vipers
 - a. Your blasphemy is the overflow of a corrupt heart
 - ii. The unforgivable sin is not..
 1. Saying the wrong words, saying something in ignorance, having an intrusive thought
 2. It is a settled condition of the heart that vilifies the work of the Holy Spirit, calling His work satanic
 - iii. Verses 22–30 show what the Pharisees said. Verses 31–37 explain why they said it.
 1. Their hearts were evil