

**Message #43****Matthew 12:22-30**

At this point in time, it is about one year away from Christ going to Calvary. Yet he was being constantly dogged by the Pharisees. They were out to destroy Him (Matt. 12:14), and they would use any means possible to do it. So Jesus Christ, at this point, does a miracle and then stops and says make your choice right now. You are either with Me or against Me.

**JESUS CHRIST DID MIRACLES TO SHOW ISRAEL THAT HE WAS THE DAVIDIC, MESSIANIC KING AND HE DEMANDED THAT ISRAEL MAKE A DECISION CONCERNING THIS TRUTH.**

As I view it, Christ has had enough. He graciously gives Israel another opportunity and says you choose right here and right now. This one miracle is a critical turning point because in chapter 13 He will present parables that indicate the program of God was going to branch out.

**FACT #1** – A demon-possessed, blind, mute man was brought to Christ to be healed. **12:22**

Here is a perfect picture of the nation Israel—they were blinded to God’s truth and they were not able to speak the truth.

**FACT #2** – The people were amazed and began to think this could be the Messianic King. **12:23**

The word “amaze” is an interesting Greek word. It means that the people were confounded in their senses (Smith, pp. 160-161). In other words, these people were dumbfounded about the power of Jesus Christ and they began to wonder that maybe this is the Davidic King we have been waiting for. The way the question is worded in Greek means that they are negatively struggling with this, but they do believe it is possible that He is the King.

**FACT #3** – The Pharisees invent their own story to throw people off the track from truth. **12:24**

The Pharisees saw that people were beginning to believe this might be our Davidic Messiah so they invented an evil, vicious lie to discredit Jesus Christ—they said He was demonic. Now we already know that the Pharisees know a lot about demons. They know they are an organized group (Matt. 9:34). Beelzebul is a name for Satan which means Lord of flies. It was the name the Jewish religious leaders such as Pharisees and scribes gave to the head of demons (Matt. 10:25; 12:24, 27; Mark 3:22; Luke 11:15, 18-19).

Whenever you present truth and start to make a difference in people, you can be certain Satan will do everything he can to pull people off track. He will try to lure them in exactly the opposite direction.

**FACT #4** – Jesus knew their thoughts and refuted their conclusions. **12:25-29**

Christ had to read their thoughts because these wimpy Pharisees don't have enough honesty or integrity to accuse Him to His face.

Christ offers three main arguments to refute their conclusions:

**(Argument #1)** - No kingdom will divide itself by attacking itself. **12:25-26**

Satan would not cast out demons by the power of Satan because he would be working against himself. Now Satan may send demons elsewhere (Acts 19:13-16). If a satanic person tried to cast out a demon, he may be permitted to do it, but the demon would go somewhere else or into someone else. Many will profess that they cast out demons one day, who never knew Jesus Christ (Matt. 7:22).

Any nation, any kingdom, any city, any church or any home will be destroyed by division.

**(Argument #2)** - If Jesus casts out demons by Satan, how about your Jewish exorcists? **12:27**

Jesus gave His own disciples power to do this (Matt. 10:25). But there is no evidence that He gave the Jewish exorcists the power (Acts 19:13). Josephus says that Jewish exorcists used strange incantations and cultic means of casting out demons.

**(Argument #3)** - If I bind Satan, I prove the kingdom of God has come to earth. **12:28-29**

Notice something very important—Satan must be bound for Christ's kingdom to be on earth, which precisely agrees with Revelation 20. Jesus was demonstrating that He had the power to bind Satan and establish the kingdom right here and right now.

Christ was demonstrating God's Spirit and God's power. He had full and complete authority to deal with Satan.

**FACT #5** – Jesus demanded a decision be made right now. **12:30**

One is either with Christ or against Christ. What this meant is one either believed this was God's Davidic King and Messiah or one didn't. It was time to choose.

Most of Israel made the wrong choice.

The only unpardonable sin that one can commit today is to refuse to believe on Jesus Christ for salvation.