

DISABLED THROUGH DEMONIC DISBELIEF

Matthew 12:22-45

I. Through demonic disbelief, the Pharisees are *spiritually mute* (vv. 22-37).

II. Through demonic disbelief, the Pharisees are *spiritually blind* (vv. 38-45).

QUESTIONS FOR FAMILY WORSHIP

1. What was wrong with the man Jesus healed? How did he serve as a picture of the Pharisees?
2. In response to the amazement of the crowds, what did the Pharisees say about Christ's exorcism of demons?
3. According to Jesus, what are His miracles evidence of? In light of that, how ought people to respond?
4. What is the unpardonable sin of vv. 31-32? How does the broader context help us to understand it?
5. Why will we be judged for every word we speak? Does this teach that we are saved by our words and works?
6. What is the sign that the Pharisees will be given? What does Jonah's life and ministry have to do with Christ's life and ministry?
7. Why are we worse off if we hear the gospel and harden our hearts against it than if we never heard the gospel at all?

QUESTIONS FOR PRIVATE REFLECTION

1. How would I counsel someone who is fearful that they have committed the unpardonable sin?
2. Am I careless with my words? What do my words reveal about my heart, especially the words I speak in private?
3. Which of Christ's illustrations in this passage particularly strikes or challenges me? Why?