

**The Lord of the Spirits**  
**Matthew 12:22-37, 43-45**

Introduction: Who is in charge?

**I. Who is the real blasphemer? (12:22-32)**

Jesus heals a deaf, mute, demon-possessed man by casting out demons (22-23)

The religious leaders manufacture a false accusation of blasphemy as an explanation for the miracle (24)

Jesus' defense and conclusion as to the source of His miracle (25-29)

Argument from civil warfare – a divided kingdom will fall  
Argument from Jewish leaders doing the very same thing

Conclusion: ***the kingdom of God has come!*** ('Already' and 'not yet')

The binding of Satan ('Already' and 'not yet')

Jesus turns the table on His adversaries (30-33)

He draws the line in the sand, and there is no place for neutrality

The true blasphemers are revealed

What is *the unpardonable sin*?

It is defined by the context

Have you committed the unpardonable sin?

How do we apply this to our lives?

**II. What is the source of blasphemy? (33-37)**

*(Good trees produce good fruit and bad trees bad fruit)*

The source of evil words (blasphemy) is an evil heart

Jesus' "tough truthfulness" is their only hope to be awakened

The place for "tough truthfulness" in our Gospel witness

**III. Insufficient conversions (12:43-45)**

*(The activity of demons after they are cast out)*

Moral reformation apart from Christ is always inadequate

Fill the house ... or else!

Jesus is either Lord of all, or He is not Lord at all