

## MATTHEW 12:15-50

A. Matthew 12:15-21 - But when Jesus knew *it*, he withdrew himself from thence: and great multitudes followed him, and he healed them all; Matt. 12:16 And charged them that they should not make him known: Matt. 12:17 That it might be fulfilled which was spoken by Esaias the prophet, saying, Matt. 12:18 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 shall shew judgment to the Gentiles. Matt. 12:19 He shall not strive, nor cry; neither shall any man hear his voice in the streets. Matt. 12:20 A bruised reed shall he not break, and smoking flax shall he not quench, till he send forth judgment unto victory. Matt. 12:21 And in his name shall the Gentiles trust.

1. Here Christ withdraws Himself and, from this point onward, He begins to **deemphasize** His public ministry. No longer is He out teaching the masses and no longer teaching the nation to reach them. But rather He backs away, telling the people **not** to tell Who He is.

Matthew 13:10-11 - And the disciples came, and said unto him, Why speakest thou unto them in parables? Matt. 13:11 He answered and said unto them, Because it is given unto you to know the mysteries of the kingdom of heaven, but to them it is not given.

Matthew 16:20 - Then charged he his disciples that they should tell no man that he was Jesus the Christ.

\*Jesus begins to train His disciples/apostles for the ministry that they will be carrying on **after** His resurrection and ascension to the Father's right hand. In His absence, they are going to be His representatives to give the nation Israel a chance to repent of rejecting Christ, and to **offer** the kingdom. His emphasis is on His replacements now.

2. Jesus quotes Isaiah 42:1-4 to describe His nation and her deplorable condition. In other words, there was no reason to make Him known - the nation was **beyond** the point of hearing.

\*But still, Jesus was gentle and **humble** with the common people. He did not cry out against the religious leaders here that He would bring His judgment upon them in fulfillment of the prophets.

3. By their rejection of His Messiahship, they were unable to go to the Gentiles-nations (Israel **first!**). Israel's leaders were so blind that it was useless to make Him known at this time.

\*\*Only when Jesus **re**turns will the Gentiles trust in Him (Isaiah 60:3).

B.

Matthew 12:22-30 - Then was brought unto him one possessed with a devil, blind, and dumb: and he healed him, insomuch that the blind and dumb both spake and saw. Matt. 12:23 And all the people were amazed, and said, Is not this the son of David? Matt. 12:24 But when the Pharisees heard *it*, they said, This *fellow* doth not cast out devils, but by Beelzebub the prince of the devils. Matt. 12:25 And Jesus knew their thoughts, and said unto them, Every kingdom divided against itself is brought to desolation; and every city or house divided against itself shall not stand: Matt. 12:26 And if Satan cast out Satan, he is divided against himself; how shall then his kingdom stand? Matt. 12:27 And if I by Beelzebub cast out devils, by whom do your children cast *them* out? therefore they shall be your judges. Matt. 12:28 But if I cast out devils by the Spirit of God, then the kingdom of God is come unto you. Matt. 12:29 Or else how can one enter into a strong man's house, and spoil his goods, except he first bind the strong man? and then he will spoil his house. Matt. 12:30 He that is not with me is against me; and he that gathereth not with me scattereth abroad.

1. Christ heals a man possessed, blind, and dumb (can you imagine?). The Pharisees blaspheme Christ by attributing His miraculous healing to the power of Beelzebub (**Satan**). Remember?

Matthew 9:34 - [But the Pharisees said, He casteth out devils through the prince of the devils.]

2. Jesus tells them that if He were of Satan as they said, why would Satan cast out his own? That would be **dividing** his own kingdom, ultimately destroying it. In understanding this, Jesus tells them that their **own** children-followers will judge them by remaining lost. It will be their fault!

Matthew 7:21-23 - Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven. Matt. 7:22 Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name? and in thy name have cast out devils? and in thy name done many wonderful works? Matt. 7:23 And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity.

3. Again, understand the issue here. It is God's Kingdom **warring** against Satan's (vs. 28). Christ's coming and healing the sick, raising the dead, and casting out devils was because there was a spiritual battle going on. Christ was intruding into Satan's realm.

\*Satan has/had this world bound up with his satanic-evil-world system. But God's Kingdom had thus far **unbound** the Little Flock (**remnant**) through battle. The King of the Kingdom was at hand.

4. In vs. 29, the strong man is Satan and his house is Israel. It is a battle over **possession** of the Nation of Israel. Satan wants to keep Israel from being used by God in regaining the earth. Why?

\*\*We know that one day all evil spirits will be cast out of Israel.

Zechariah 13:1-2 - In that day there shall be a fountain opened to the house of David and to the inhabitants of Jerusalem for sin and for uncleanness. Zech. 13:2 And it shall come to pass in that day, saith the LORD of hosts, *that* I will cut off the names of the idols out of the land, and they shall no more be remembered: and also I will cause the prophets and the unclean spirit to pass out of the land.

- C. 1. This usually is called the **unpardonable** sin. It has been so **mis**interpreted, causing harm and fear upon many. I have met with some even crying because they feared **they** had committed the unpardonable sin, thus sealing their eternal lostness.

<p><u>Matthew 12:31-32</u> - Wherefore I say unto you, All manner of sin and blasphemy shall be forgiven unto men: but the blasphemy <i>against</i> the <i>Holy</i> Ghost shall not be forgiven unto men. <u>Matt. 12:32</u> And whosoever speaketh a word against the Son of man, it shall be forgiven him: but whosoever speaketh against the Holy Ghost, it shall not be forgiven him, neither in this world, neither in the <i>world</i> to come.</p>
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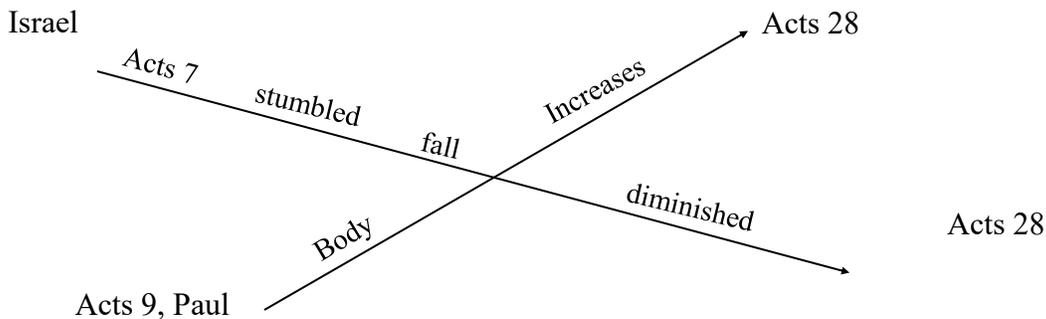
donable sin, thus sealing their eternal lostness.

2. The sin here is to blaspheme against the **Holy Spirit**. It wasn't a sin against Jesus Christ that would be **unforgivable** because sins against Him were forgivable. Remember on the **cross** Jesus said, [Father, forgive them]?
- a. This Holy Spirit being sinned against, in this context, could not have happened **yet** because He had not yet come. It is at Pentecost that the Holy Spirit is given, 10 days **after** Christ's ascension.

- b. After Pentecost, the religious leaders of Israel were no longer acting in **ignorance**. In rejecting Christ now (in early Acts 2-7), they were sinning against the Holy Spirit. It climaxed for the nation in Acts 7:51 - [Ye stiffnecked and uncircumcised in heart and ears, ye do always resist the Holy Ghost: as your fathers *did*, so *do* ye.]
- c. Therefore, the sin committed against the Holy Spirit was by Israel during the Acts period. The unpardonable sin is a dispensational sin (*Time **Past***, Gen.-Acts 8), thus it **cannot** be committed today.

\*\*There is **no** sin that is not forgivable today through faith in the D.B.R. - in today's Dispensation of the Gospel of Grace (*But Now*, Rom.-Philemon).

- d. When the Nation Israel did this, God began the setting of Israel temporarily **aside** in spiritual blindness. It concluded by the end of Acts 28.



- e. Throughout Acts, Paul continued to have **en**counters with the "fading off the scene" religious, spiritually blinded and **hard**ened Jews until Acts 28.

Acts 13:45-56 - But when the Jews saw the multitudes, they were filled with envy, and spake against those things which were spoken by Paul, contradicting and blaspheming. Acts 13:46 Then Paul and Barnabas waxed bold, and said, It was necessary that the word of God should first have been spoken to you: but seeing ye put it from you, and judge yourselves unworthy of ever lasting life, lo, we turn to the Gentiles.

Acts 18:6 - And when they opposed themselves, and blasphemed, he shook *his* raiment, and said unto them, Your blood *be* upon your own heads; I *am* clean: from henceforth I will go unto the Gentiles.

Acts 28:27-28 - For the heart of this people is waxed gross, and their ears are dull of hearing, and their eyes have they closed; lest they should see with *their* eyes, and hear with *their* ears, and understand with *their* heart, and should be converted, and I should heal them. Acts 28:28 Be it known therefore unto you, that the salvation of God is sent unto the Gentiles, and *that* they will hear it.

\*\*Israel had rejected the Son through John the Baptist. They had rejected the Son Himself. Now, Israel had rejected the Son through the Holy Spirit, Whom the Son had sent. This was a **complete God**head rejection by the nation Israel.

D. Matthew 12:33-37 - Either make the tree good, and his fruit good; or else make the tree corrupt, and his fruit corrupt: for the tree is known by *his* fruit. Matt. 12:34 O generation of vipers, how can ye, being evil, speak good things? for out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaketh. Matt. 12:35 A good man out of the good treasure of the heart bringeth forth good things: and an evil man out of the evil treasure bringeth forth evil things. Matt. 12:36 But I say unto you, That every idle word that men shall speak, they shall give account thereof in the day of judgment. Matt. 12:37 For by thy words thou shalt be justified, and by thy words thou shalt be condemned.

1. Here Jesus gives a similitude - **example** of good and bad men bringing good and bad fruit, as do good and bad trees. He is saying that every one of their evil deeds and words would be judged. The fact that their deeds were evil **revealed** they were of Satan (John 8:44).
2. Israel's lack of **true** fruit demonstrated they were corrupt. However, Christ's works were so obviously of God, so miraculous and beyond good, that it was amazing that the religious leaders of Israel could **not** discern Who Christ was.

E. Matthew 12:38-42 - Then certain of the scribes and of the Pharisees answered, saying, Master, we would see a sign from thee. Matt. 12:39 But he answered and said unto them, An evil and adulterous generation seeketh after a sign; and there shall no sign be given to it, but the sign of the prophet Jonas: Matt. 12:40 For as Jonas was three days and three nights in the whale's belly; so shall the Son of man be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth. Matt. 12:41 The men of Nineveh shall rise in judgment with this generation, and shall condemn it: because they repented at the preaching of Jonas; and, behold, a greater than Jonas *is* here. Matt. 12:42 The queen of the south shall rise up in the judgment with this generation, and shall condemn it: for she came from the uttermost parts of the earth to hear the wisdom of Solomon; and, behold, a greater than Solomon *is* here.

1. The Jewish leaders **now** ask for a sign! They had already seen **many** signs and **still** rejected Him. Christ states that Nineveh and the Queen of the South had already repented and believed at Jonas' preaching and Solomon's wisdom. They all would be there at these religious leaders' coming judgment, where they will be **condemned**.
2. The only sign Jesus promises them would humanly be an **impossible** thing. The **final** sign Christ will give them is His **resurrection**.

F. Matthew 12:43-45 - When the unclean spirit is gone out of a man, he walketh through dry places, seeking rest, and findeth none. Matt. 12:44 Then he saith, I will return into my house from whence I came out; and when he is come, he findeth *it* empty, swept, and garnished. Matt. 12:45 Then goeth he, and taketh with himself seven other spirits more wicked than himself, and they enter in and dwell there: and the last *state* of that man is worse than the first. Even so shall it be also unto this wicked generation.

1. This shows Israel's continued corruption and rejection. Even though Israel was swept clean and forgiven by Christ on the **cross**, they would not accept it. The **unclean** evil spirits would return, making it worse than the first state.

\*Repeat:

2. Even though Israel was given a new opportunity at Pentecost and beyond (Acts 2-7), she **never** would believe and follow Christ. She actually became worse with more evil spirits invading her. This "wicked generation's" **spirit** one day will end up recognizing the Antichrist as the Messiah.

G. Matthew 12:46-50 - While he yet talked to the people, behold, *his* mother and his brethren stood without, desiring to speak with him. Matt. 12:47 Then one said unto him, Behold, thy mother and thy brethren stand without, desiring to speak with thee. Matt. 12:48 But he answered and said unto him that told him, Who is my mother? and who are my brethren? Matt. 12:49 And he stretched forth his hand toward his disciples, and said, Behold my mother and my brethren! Matt. 12:50 For whosoever shall do the will of my Father which is in heaven, the same is my brother, and sister, and mother.

1. Here we see the importance of **spiritual** relationships. Jesus is showing the new relationship His disciples will have with Him if they would completely follow Him.

\*His disciples were His real spiritual family and took **priority**, even over human relationships.

2. Jesus was also teaching another truth. Genealogies would no longer matter. Christ is departing from old relationships that Israel clung to. He shows the spiritual **oneness** of those coming **out** of apostate Israel...the Little Flock that believed He was **Messiah**.

3. Yes, Mary had **other** children.

Matthew 13:55-56 - Is not this the carpenter's son? is not his mother called Mary? and his brethren, James, and Joses, and Simon, and Judas? Matt. 13:56 And his sisters, are they not all with us? Whence then hath this *man* all these things?