



Matthew 12:22-50

# THE BLASPHEMY OF THE SPIRIT

Most of the sin-blinded people [in Matthew 12] remained ambivalent about Jesus' identity and the source of His great power. They knew that miracles would be proof signs of the Messiah; but they also expected Him to come with royal fanfare and with military might. But instead of regal robes, sovereign authority, a throne, trumpets, swords, horses, chariots, and a mighty army, they saw a Man of compassion, gentleness, and humility—with a following of twelve nondescript disciples and a multitude of hangers-on whose loyalty could hardly be counted on. Because Jesus did not appear to be a conqueror or a king by their definition, the people would not accept His being the Messiah. They had chosen to be selective about the Old Testament predictions of the Messiah. His predicted coming in power and glory to defeat the foes of Israel and set His people free was easy for them to be excited about. His predicted coming in meekness and humility was not.

—John MacArthur, Jr., *Matthew Commentary*, 306

## THE CHIASTIC STRUCTURE OF MATTHEW 11-12

- A. Jesus Doubted by John the Baptist (11:1-11)
- B. Jesus Demanded by the People to Prove Himself (11:12-19)
- C. Jesus Rejected by the Cities Despite His Works (11:20-24)
  - D. Jesus Is the Messiah Who Offers Rest (11:25-30)
  - E. Jesus Is the True King over the Sabbath (12:1-8)
  - E'. Jesus Is the True Priest of the Sabbath (12:9-14)
  - D'. Jesus Is the Servant Who Brings Rest (12:15-21)
- C'. Jesus Rejected by Leaders Despite His Works (12:22-37)
- B'. Jesus Demanded by Leaders to Perform Signs (12:38-45)
- A'. Jesus Doubted by His Own Family (12:46-50)

## JESUS REJECTED DESPITE HIS MIGHTY WORKS (12:22-37)

- An undeniable \_\_\_\_\_ (12:22-24)
- An unavoidable \_\_\_\_\_ (12:25-30).
- The unforgiveable \_\_\_\_\_ (12:31-32)

Every sin and blasphemy will be forgiven except \_\_\_\_\_  
(Mark 3:28-30; Luke 12:10; cf. Hebrews 6:4-6).

**Amazed.** Greek, *existemi*, "to be beside oneself; to be knocked out of one's senses; astonished."

**12:23.** *The wording in the Greek suggests more skepticism than before and could fairly be translated, "This man isn't the Son of David, is He?"* —Craig Blomberg

*The uncertainty expressed by the question may be in part owing to the fact that Jesus, for all his unmistakable authority in healing and teaching, has shown no inclination to fulfill the more political aspect of popular Davidic expectation.* —R. T. France

**Thoughts.** Greek, *enthumesis*, "one's inward reasoning, ideas, affections, or motivations; inner passions driving one's thinking" (9:3; Acts 17:29; Heb. 4:12).

*Christ either [1] deceived mankind by conscious fraud, or [2] He was Himself deluded and self-deceived, or [3] He was Divine. There is no getting out of this trilemma. It is inexorable.*

—John Duncan (1796-1870)

### Understanding the Blasphemy of the Spirit:

- We have all sinned and fall short of God's glory (Romans 3:9-23).
- We all deserve death and condemnation for our sin (Romans 6:23).
- Jesus Christ's death is sufficient for all (Romans 5:18; 1 John 2:1-2).
- The Holy Spirit convicts all people of sin, righteousness, and judgment and points them to their need for Jesus (John 15:26; 16:8-15).
- The sin that ultimately condemns a person to hell is the individual rejection of the Spirit's work in their heart (John 3:5-8; Acts 7:51).
- It is essentially telling the Spirit in your heart, finally and ultimately: \_\_\_\_\_!

- **The uncovered \_\_\_\_\_ (12:33-37)**

*How can we catch a glimpse of the condition of our inward heart?*

### JESUS DEMANDED TO PERFORM A SIGN (12:38-45)

- To keep demanding signs is a sign of a \_\_\_\_\_ heart.
- The ultimate sign of Jesus' identity is His \_\_\_\_\_.
- Jesus has shown Himself to be greater than any prophet or any king so the real issue is not—"I don't have enough proof"—but rather—"I do not want to \_\_\_\_\_."
- To be delivered from a sin, trial, sickness, or demon but to still choose not to trust in Jesus is to end up in a worse condition.

### JESUS DOUBTED BY HIS OWN FAMILY (12:46-50)

In Mark's gospel, the reason for the family visit is to take Jesus back home because they fear He may be "out of His mind" (3:21). In Matthew, they are merely "outside" seeking to speak to Him. Just as John the Baptist began to doubt Jesus, here Mary and His brothers begin to question the direction of Jesus' ministry, probably fearing for His life. Jesus responds by declaring all those who do the will of His Father as His true family.

*It is the Spirit's work to open our eyes, to grant repentance and to make us beneficiaries of all that the Father has planned and all that Christ has done for us. If we blaspheme and reject the Father and the Son there is still hope, for the Spirit may yet work within us to humble us and bring us to repentance. But if behind the Father and the Son, we see and taste the power of the Holy Spirit and reject his work...we shut ourselves off from the only one who could ever bring repentance. And so we shut ourselves off from forgiveness. —John Piper*

*Those who fear they have committed this sin give a good sign they have not. —Matthew Henry*

*The blasphemy of the Spirit will never be forgiven—not because it is a sin too big for God to forgive, but because it is an attitude of heart that cares nothing for God's forgiveness. —David Guzik*

*Words do much discover the temper of a man's heart. There are three operations of man by which he is discovered to be what he is—thoughts, words, and actions. —Thomas Manton (1620-77)*

*Conduct, especially speech, reveals character. —D. A. Carson*

*What may seem like trivial or casual remarks may at times better reflect true attitudes of one's heart than more carefully chosen words. —Craig Blomberg*

*Jesus is not saying that earthly family ties are unimportant, only that they are not all-important. Doing the will of God is all-important. —Leon Morris*