

The King's People Are Recognized by their Actions

Matthew 12:22-37

Thesis: All human beings will be judged for what they have done, because our actions ultimately demonstrate what is in our hearts.

I. Setting: Jesus and the Demon Possessed Man (22-23)

- A. Jesus casts out the demon and returns the man's sight and speech
- B. The crowds are amazed!

II. More Conflict: Jesus Versus the Pharisees (24-30)

- A. The Pharisees slander Jesus (24)
 - 1. Jesus is not the "Son of David"
 - 2. Jesus casts out demons by the power of Beelzebul
- B. Jesus defends Himself (25-30)
 - 1. Jesus knew their thoughts
 - 2. Jesus asserts that divided kingdoms don't stand
 - 3. Jesus' exorcisms demonstrate arrival of His Kingdom
 - 4. Jesus is plundering the devil's territory
 - 5. No neutral parties in war between Jesus and Satan

III. Jesus' Accusation: Pharisees Guilty of Unpardonable Sin (31-32)

- A. Jesus provides amazing forgiveness of sin
- B. Blasphemy of the Holy Spirit cannot be forgiven

IV. Explanation: Our Actions Reveal the Heart (33-37)

- A. The tree is known by the kind of fruit it produces
- B. The mouth reveals what's inside the heart
- C. People will be judged by their words