

Speaker: Pastor Buster Brown

Today's Message: The Kingdom of God and Moving Vans

Today's Text: Matthew 12:22-32

*“Then a demon-oppressed man who was blind and mute was brought to him, and he healed him, so that the man spoke and saw. 23 And all the people were amazed, and said, “Can this be the Son of David?” 24 But when the Pharisees heard it, they said, ‘It is only by Beelzebul, the prince of demons, that this man casts out demons.’ 25 Knowing their thoughts, he said to them, “Every kingdom divided against itself is laid waste, and no city or house divided against itself will stand. 26 And if Satan casts out Satan, he is divided against himself. How then will his kingdom stand? 27 And if I cast out demons by Beelzebul, by whom do your sons cast them out? Therefore they will be your judges. 28 But if it is by the Spirit of God that I cast out demons, then the kingdom of God has come upon you. 29 Or how can someone enter a strong man's house and plunder his goods, unless he first binds the strong man? Then indeed he may plunder his house. 30 Whoever is not with me is against me, and whoever does not gather with me scatters. 31 Therefore I tell you, every sin and blasphemy will be forgiven people, but the blasphemy against the Spirit will not be forgiven. 32 And whoever speaks a word against the Son of Man will be forgiven, but whoever speaks against the Holy Spirit will not be forgiven, either in this age or in the age to come.” **Matthew 12:22-32***

I. A Healing, Obscure Thinking and a Glorious Declaration (v.22-28)

II. The Plundering Process (v.29-30)

“The Devil is being, and is progressively going to be, deprived of his “furniture” that is of the souls and bodies of men, and this not only through healings but also through a mighty missionary program, reaching first the Jews, and later on all the nations in general. (John 12:31-32, Romans 1:16)”

Baker New Testament Commentary, Hendricksen, p. 527

*“And you, who were dead in your trespasses and the uncircumcision of your flesh, God made alive together with him, having forgiven us all our trespasses, by canceling the record of debt that stood against us with its legal demands. This he set aside, nailing it to the cross. He disarmed the rulers and authorities and put them to open shame, by triumphing over them in him.” **Colossians 2:13-15***

The plundering process of sanctification is ongoing.

“Therefore the godly heart feels in itself a division because it is partly imbued with sweetness from its recognition of the divine goodness, partly rests upon the promise of the gospel, partly trembles at the evidence of its own iniquity; partly rejoices at the

expectation of life, partly shudders at death. This variation arise from imperfection of faith since in the course of the present life it never goes so well with us that we are wholly cured of the disease of unbelief and entirely filled and possessed by faith. Hence arises those conflicts...” **John Calvin**, *Institutes of the Christian Religion*, 3-2-18

“...the more we advance in the knowledge of God the ignorance is dispelled.. like a man shut up in prison with a narrow window into which the sun’s rays shine...so, however much we are shadowed on every side with great darkness, we are nevertheless illuminated as much as need be for firm assurance when the light of God sheds a little of its radiance (by the Word).” **John Calvin**, *Institutes of the Christian Religion*, 3-2-19

“.. the root of faith can never be torn from the godly breast, but clings so fast to the inmost parts that, however faith seems to be shaken or to bend this way or that, its light is never so extinguished or snuffed out that it does not at least lurk as it were beneath the ashes..” **John Calvin**, *Institutes of the Christian Religion*, 3-2-21

III. Neutrality: Impossible (v.30)

IV. Sobering and Comforting Words Regarding Blaspheming the Holy Spirit (v.31-32)

“The sin of blasphemy against the Holy Spirit is attributing to Satan what is accomplished by the power of God, and doing this through the flagrant, willful, and persistent rejection of God and His commands. This sin is committed today ONLY by unbelievers who deliberately and unchangeably reject the ministry of the Holy Spirit in calling them to salvation.” **ESV Study Bible**

QUESTIONS

1. How is the “plundering process” accomplished by the communication of the gospel? (Col 1:13-14)
2. How is the “plundering process” synonymous with the continuous and irreconcilable war against sin in the life of the believer (sanctification)?
3. Why is neutrality towards Christ blasphemy against the Holy Spirit? (John 16:8)
4. In what respect is the statement of v. 31-32 both sobering and comforting?

“...the one takes priority over the 99...”

“I am this day seventy years old, a monument of Divine mercy and goodness, though on a review of my life I find much, very much, for which I ought to be humbled in the dust; my direct and positive sins are innumerable, my negligence in the Lord’s work has been great, I have not promoted his cause, nor sought his glory and honor as I ought, notwithstanding all this, I am spared till now, and am still retained in his work, and I trust I am received into the divine favor through him. I wish to be more entirely devoted to his service, more completely sanctified and more habitually exercising all the Christian graces, and bringing forth the fruits of righteousness to the praise and honor of that Savior who gave his life a sacrifice for sin.” **William Carey** (This quote was written on 8/17/1791. Carey died on 6/9/1794.)