

Sermon-Based Discussion Guide

Date 08/13/23 Bryce Taylor

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BIBLE PASSAGE - Matthew 12

Matthew 12:22 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.

John 16:8 When he comes, he will prove the world to be in the wrong about sin and righteousness and judgment: 9 about sin, because people do not believe in me; 10 about righteousness, because I am going to the Father, where you can see me no longer; 11 and about judgment, because the prince of this world now stands condemned.

Other Passages: Micah 7:18-20, Phil 4:6-9, John 3

Connect:

Get to know each other. Connect, warm up to each other, and take time to fellowship.

Care:

Carry each other's burdens. Share life's challenges and practice Soul Care. Pray together.

Challenge:

Dive into God's Word. Use these discussion questions. Learn from each other's insight.

Last week in chapter 11 of Matthew the discussion around doubts could be described as the battle of the mind, this week in chapter 12, likewise could be called the battle for the heart.

1. Is there a moment this week where you experienced either battle, did you experience doubts? Or a hardened heart? Cynicism? Did you encounter someone else with either?
2. Take a moment to discuss as a group how Chapter 16 of John is a helpful guide to understanding the Holy Spirit, what are the descriptions that you find helpful as you consider the work of the Holy Spirit?
3. Bryce described "Blaspheming" the Holy Spirit as rejecting the conviction of the Holy Spirit, rejecting what God wanted to do in our lives. Write down as a group activity How would your group describe Blaspheming the Holy Spirit to someone who was new to following Jesus, specifically helping them with why it is not forgivable? What other scripture would you turn to for clarity on this topic?
4. Here are a few questions to get you going into an important conversation for us to have. ***How is it possible for Christians to possibly arrive at this place of hardening of heart and rejecting God?*** What have you witnessed either in yourself or others? Have you heard or seen Christians describe their lives with little to no conviction of Sin? Or a life of purity?
5. Share with the group how this conversation that Jesus had with the Pharisees in Chapter 12 is challenging your faith, and if possible, share one thing that is changing or you need help/prayer for this week.

Clarify:

Does anyone need clarity on something? Are there any big God questions you are wrestling with?

Celebrate:

Celebrate life's successes and God's provision. Worship God's presence. Time to brag about God.

KEY TAKEAWAYS