

Miracles & the Holy Spirit (Matthew 12:22-37)

Experience God's Power – Part 11

Life Church St. Louis – August 28, 2016

Lead Pastor – Dr. Dan Walker

Psalm 77:14 (NIV) You are the God who performs miracles; you display your power among the peoples.

1 Corinthians 2:14 (NIV) The person without the Spirit does not accept the things that come from the Spirit of God but considers them foolishness, and cannot understand them because they are discerned only through the Spirit.

Acts 2:22 (NIV) "Fellow Israelites, listen to this: Jesus of Nazareth was a man accredited by God to you by miracles, wonders and signs, which God did among you through him, as you yourselves know.

1. How people react to a _____

Matthew 12:22 (NIV) Then they brought him a demon-possessed man who was blind and mute, and Jesus healed him, so that he could both talk and see.

1A. Give _____ to God

Matthew 12:23 (NIV) All the people were astonished and said, "Could this be the Son of David?"

1B. _____ God's involvement

Matthew 12:24 (NIV) But when the Pharisees heard this, they said, "It is only by Beelzebul, the prince of demons, that this fellow drives out demons."

2. How to respond to _____

2A. Satan does not set people _____

Matthew 12:25-27 (NIV) Jesus knew their thoughts and said to them, "Every kingdom divided against itself will be ruined, and every city or household divided against itself will not stand. If Satan drives out Satan, he is divided against himself. How then can his kingdom stand? And if I drive out demons

by Beelzebul, by whom do your people drive them out? So then, they will be your judges.

2B. The _____ heals people

Matthew 12:28-29 (NIV) But if it is by the Spirit of God that I drive out demons, then the kingdom of God has come upon you. "Or again, how can anyone enter a strong man's house and carry off his possessions unless he first ties up the strong man? Then he can plunder his house.

3. Jesus' _____ to skeptics

Matthew 12:30 (NIV) "Whoever is not with me is against me, and whoever does not gather with me scatters.

3A. Speaking against the Spirit is _____

Matthew 12:31-32 (NIV) And so I tell you, every kind of sin and slander can be forgiven, but blasphemy against the Spirit will not be forgiven. Anyone who speaks a word against the Son of Man will be forgiven, but anyone who speaks against the Holy Spirit will not be forgiven, either in this age or in the age to come.

3B. _____ show the heart's direction

Matthew 12:34-35 (NIV) You brood of vipers, how can you who are evil say anything good? For the mouth speaks what the heart is full of. A good man brings good things out of the good stored up in him, and an evil man brings evil things out of the evil stored up in him.

3C. God will _____ people by their words

Matthew 12:36-37 (NIV) But I tell you that everyone will have to give account on the day of judgment for every empty word they have spoken. For by your words you will be acquitted, and by your words you will be condemned."

Action Plan for This Week

- Have a daily quiet time of Bible reading, prayer & writing.
 - Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat Sun
- Study Matthew 12 to better understand today's message in context.
- Invite your friends, relatives, workmates & neighbors to our Sunday service.

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Study Guide

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Intro. In what ways is Christianity dependent on supernatural miracles?

What kinds of miracles did God perform in the Old Testament (Psalm 77:14)?

Why does the person without the Spirit consider the supernatural things of the Spirit foolishness (1 Corinthians 2:4-5, 13-14)?

Why did not everyone believe in Jesus because of His miracles (Acts 2:22)?

Why do you think that many churches today teach that God no longer does miracles?

1A. How can someone know whether a person's sickness is caused by a demon or disease (Matthew 12:22, 1 Corinthians 12:10)?

1B. Why did this healing cause some to think that Jesus could be the Messiah (Matthew 12:23)?

1C. Why did the Pharisees attribute Jesus' miracles to the prince of demons (Matthew 12:24)?

1D. In what ways do you see people's two responses to God's miracles today?

2A. Explain Jesus' argument why it is impossible that Satan could be driving out demons (Matthew 12:25-27)?

2B. How did Jesus drive out demons (Matthew 12:28a)? What were the implications of Jesus' driving out demons (Matthew 12:28b-29)?

2C. How can we expect the Holy Spirit to work miracles through us today (John 14:12, Acts 1:8, 1 Corinthians 12:7-11)?

2D. How would you answer the person who said that God doesn't work miracles today?

3A. Explain Jesus' warning in Matthew 12:30.

3B. Based on this passage, what is blasphemy against the Spirit (Matthew 12:31-32, 1 John 5:15)?

3C. What do evil words, such as spoken by the Pharisees, tell about their hearts (Matthew 12:34-35)?

3D. If we're saved by faith, why does Jesus say we will give be condemned or acquitted by our words (Matthew 12:36-37)?

3E. How should you heed Jesus' warnings? What would you say to a person who was worried they had committed the unforgiveable sin?