



**The Parable of The Divided KINGDOM
(Matthew 12:24-30)**

Jesus was always doing Kingdom business! Often, in doing this, He had his own way of “rubbing certain people up the wrong way.” This is captured in Matthew 12:24-30. It says:

“Then one was brought to Him who was demon-possessed, blind and mute;

The man had demons in him: that caused his body to violently react. He was blind and couldn’t speak. The Scripture goes on:

“and He healed him, so that the blind and mute man both spoke and saw and all the multitudes were amazed and said, “Could this be the Son of David?”

This is a way of saying, “Could this be our promised Messiah?”

“Now when the Pharisees heard it, they said, “This fellow does not cast out demons except by Beelzebub, the ruler of the demons.”

But Jesus knew their thoughts and said to them: “Every Kingdom divided against itself is brought to desolation and every city or house divided against itself will not stand. If Satan casts out Satan, he is divided against himself. How then will his Kingdom stand? And if I cast out demons by Beelzebub, by whom do your sons cast them out? Therefore they shall be your judges but if I cast out demons by the Spirit of God, surely the Kingdom of God has come upon you. Or how can one enter a strong man’s house and plunder his goods, unless he first binds the strong man? And then he will plunder his house. He who is not with Me is against Me and he who does not gather with Me scatters abroad.” (vv. 25-30)

Now, this is interesting! Do you know that witchdoctors have the power to heal people? Witchdoctors even claim that they can release people from demonic oppression! (That’s like the pot calling the kettle black!) While they appear to do a seemingly good thing, they take something extremely precious from that person: their need for Jesus Christ.

It seems that other religions have certain “gifted” people who excel at “special spiritual” rites. Obviously, Satan can do these things in his own kingdom, but in fact, he places his clients into greater bondage than they had been in before. By giving glory to the witchdoctor, or some other false god, more power is given to the demons and even to the so called “healer.” Satan wins! The devil gets a tighter grip on his victims as they worship a false god instead of the One True God.

Jesus said, “Every Kingdom divided against each other is brought to desolation and every city or house divided against itself will not stand.” A simple example of this expression would be: it only takes

one spouse to break a marriage. Every house that is divided will not stand.

I heard a story about a man who was continually sick and had to go to the hospital regularly because he couldn't eat. He would be put on a drip and after two months in intensive care, he would come back out. Once again, he would become sick and he couldn't eat again. He had been to the hospital about five times. Then he asked his preacher, Andrew Wommack, to come to his house because he needed help.

As Andrew arrived, he saw a woman leaving the house. After the man described his condition Andrew said, "I don't know any reason for this sickness." Yet, the Holy Spirit had told this man to invite Andrew to come and see him. Andrew said, "Well, the Holy Spirit might have told you, but I don't know the reason. Let us pray."

Andrew started to pray. He was about two sentences into the prayer and the Holy Spirit said to him, "The problem is his mother-in-law: she is always cursing him."

When Andrew finished the prayer, he said, "Who was that leaving? Was that your mother-in-law?"

And he said, "Yes."

Andrew asked, "Does she treat you well?"

He said, "Oh, she's always here, saying I'm no good for her family and she is always cursing me by saying that I will never work and I will always be sick."

Andrew said, "She says all these things and what else does she say?"

Andrew listened to the man relate how his mother-in-law spoke curses of sickness over him.

"You must get rid that mother-in-law. You cannot be well and allow her into your house. You will continue to be sick. She is the problem," said Andrew.

So the man did just that! He was healed and stayed healed from that time on.

Now, what am I saying? I am not bringing a charge against mothers-in-law. I am just saying that a house divided against itself, cannot stand. There are situations where one spouse must choose between parents or the other spouse.

The Scripture said in the Old Testament, in Genesis, "For this reason, a man shall leave his mother and father, cleave to his wife and the two shall become one." (Genesis 2:24)

Many problems in marriages occur, because either the man or the woman has not emotionally left their parents. The in-laws are always niggling into their business and giving advice. The parents need to take their hands off and let the children become grown-ups to work out their own lives.

So Jesus was using the illustration saying that Satan cannot his kingdom like this. Jesus was casting out demons and healing people, bringing glory to God – there is no way Satan would work through Jesus to do these things because these practices were destroying his kingdom. Jesus was using a logical argument: Satan wouldn't work against himself! To do so, would damage his cause, which is to rob and destroy all of God's creation.

He went on to say that there were exorcists that existed amongst the Jews. Jesus said to them, "By whom do your sons cast them out therefore they shall be your judges." (v. 27)

The Jews who were casting demons out of people should be the judges of the Pharisees to see which side they were on. These exorcists could judge fairly, because the actual demons left their victims. They would be able to discern whether Jesus was being led by the Spirit of God. It was totally inconceivable to believe that a miracle that glorified God would be initiated by the devil!

Jesus went on to say that, "If I cast them out through the Spirit of God, well then surely the Kingdom of God has come upon you." (v.28)

In a nutshell: the Pharisees were ordered to be judged by the people who were casting out demons in their own faith or they would have to acknowledge that Jesus was in fact, casting out demons by the Spirit of God.

Now Jesus goes on to talk about binding the strong man and plundering his goods. He said: "He who is not with Me is against Me and he who does not gather with Me scatters abroad." (v. 30)

Jesus was saying in effect, "If you are not for me guys, you are against me. You can't sit on the fence on this issue, or any other issue. You have to accept that I am the Son of God. You have to accept that I am the son of David, as they say I am. You have to look at the signs and wonders that I am doing and say to yourself, 'Surely this man has the power and authority of God! This man is making blind people see, making deaf people hear and casting out demons. He is performing miracles, the sign of a prophet, and this prophet claims that he is the Son of God.'"

This is what this parable is talking about. Is Jesus the Son of God to you? Is Jesus the Son of David? Was he descended from David, the King of Israel like the Messiah was supposed to be? Is Jesus really the promised Messiah?

So, what is the practical application? It means that if you can't speak the Gospel, you are mute; if you don't understand the Gospel, you are blind to it; if you are affected by wrong theology or wrong voices are speaking to you, you may be demon- possessed. All these things can be solved through Jesus Christ. The spiritual blindness can be corrected by being led by Jesus into truth. The muteness - the inability to witness: to share the Gospel with your friends - can be corrected by a proper relationship with Jesus and Him giving you the boldness through the Holy Spirit. Life filled with joy and love will also give you confidence. It will produce in others, the living proof that God resides in you.

Many Christians do not witness in this world because they think they don't really see that they have anything to witness about. Or, because they feel inhibited from expressing what they fear may be controversial views, in today's society. They worry that the Gospel

news will offend their friends and acquaintances and therefore keep quiet. They are in fact apathetic because of their own self-centeredness. This renders them ineffective. Then, there are others who do not share their faith with other people because they are just too sad and depressed.

Most Christians never seem to reach their full potential. Less than half of them live in health, vitality or prosperity. Andrew Wommack teaches about living in your destiny and fulfilling God's calling in your life. When he teaches in various churches and public halls, he always calls for people to come forward for prayer who want to have a deeper walk with God; over eighty percent of the people come forward. You see, most Christians have no idea what they are here for. Therefore they are not fulfilled.

Are you one of those people? Are you one who doesn't yet know your specific purpose in the kingdom? You need to find out! You need to discover God's purpose and start making steps towards it in His strength. Ask Jesus to reveal these things to you and to give you inspiration and courage to change. Then your blindness and your muteness will go. You are called to live an abundant and righteous life! Christ in us: is our hope of glory. Rest in His ability to make you the way you are meant to be. The answers to life are found in Jesus Christ. Reading and understanding His parables is a good start.