

LESSONS THIS QUARTER

- 1) 6 December 2015..... Matthew 03The Preaching of John the Baptist
- 2) 13 December..... Matthew 01 The Genealogy of Christ
- 3) 20 December..... Matthew 02 The Magi
- 4) 27 December..... Matthew 04 The Temptation of Jesus
- 5) 03 January 2016..... Matthew 05:1-16..... The Sermon on the Mount
- 6) 10 January..... Matthew 06..... Benevolence Giving
- 7) 17 January..... Matthew 05:17-45..... Personal Relationships
- 8) 24 January..... Matthew 07..... Judging Others
- 9) 31 January..... Matthew 08..... More Miracles
- 10) 07 February..... Matthew 09-10and More Miracles
- 11) 14 February..... Matthew 11..... Tough Questions
- 12) 21 February..... Matthew 12..... Time to Pick a Fight
- 13) 28 February..... Matthew 13..... More Parables

INTRODUCTION

- This chapter records the 5th of 10 crowd situations in Matthew where the Lord of the Sabbath continues supernaturally healing everyone of everything (100%) to fulfill Scripture and to tick off the establishment who ask for another sign to prove His claims
- Do we need to differentiate between Supernatural and Providential wonders? Yes we should, at least for the sake of non-believers.

DEFINITIONS

- **Definition of Supernatural Healing.** One or more laws of nature, including time, are broken or suspended to restore someone's health. **Examples:** Every conceivable ailment from miraculously raising the dead to instantaneously restoring a missing limb, healing a broken bone, or repairing genes of Down's Syndrome.
- **Definition of Providential Healing.** No laws of nature are broken as God uniquely brings events together to restore someone's health. **Examples:** The timely delivery of medical intervention, medicine, surgery, positive attitude, or even rest to restore "Functional" ailments such as headaches, backaches, colds, some cancers, resuscitation of someone near death, etc.
 - ♦ We have to acknowledge providential healings are very subjective. We can never say with certainty if a healing was truly from God working through a situation or coincidental to passage of time or receiving medical attention, medication, rest, etc.?

NOTES

- **Note #1.** Jesus and His Disciples only performed supernatural healings – for a season. Providential healings became prominent after the Holy Spirit turned the supernatural switch off. **Examples.** Epaphraditus' near death episode ([Phil 2:25-30](#)), Paul tells Timothy to take medicine (i.e., wine) for his many ailments ([1Tim 5:23](#)), & Paul leaves Trophimus sick in Miletum ([2Tim 4:20](#))
- **Note #2.** The next occurrence of supernatural miracles will be done by the 2 witnesses identified in Revelation 11
- **Note #3.** Remember, the best miracles Satan and his demons can do are called "lying wonders".....[2 Thes 2:9](#)

Passage	Comments
A Note on Biblical Principles	<p>Bare BONES of Biblical Principles:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Balancing Principle <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ Example. Tell the Truth in Love.....Eph 4:15 - Without Truth you have a license to do anything - Without Love it's tyranny (Talibanism) • Overriding Principle <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ Obey man vs God 1Peter 2:13 vs Acts 4:1 ♦ Compassion is better than Sacrifice..... Mat 12:7-13 • Negating Principle.....Mat 19:21 vs 1Thes 3:10 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ If a man doesn't work, he doesn't eat • Explanatory Principle.....Mat 12:1-7 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ Sabbath is made for man's benefit • Sequential Principle..... 1 John 1:9 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ Confess + repent + restore / restitution
12:15-21	<p>He Healed Them All</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • v15. Jesus withdrew Himself from the area He was in and apparently went to a less populated area. Yet, "Many Followed Him", and He did what He always did when there were sick looking to be healed by Him... He Healed Them ALL... <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ What kind of illnesses and ailments did Jesus heal? All kinds and every kind. ♦ What kind of illnesses was Jesus NOT able to heal? Only those who didn't want to be healed. • v16-21. Jesus warned them not to tell anyone who He was. So who was He? He was...God's "Servant" and God's "Beloved" who was Spirit-filled (v18); He was Gentle and Quiet (vv19-20); and all Nations would hope in Him. IOW, He was the Messiah.... Isaiah 42:1-4
12:22-23	<p>Blind, Mute, Demon-Possessed Man Healed</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • v22. A blind and mute man spoke and saw after Jesus expelled the demon from him. Questions: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ How did Jesus release the demon?Immediately ♦ How can we tell if someone has a demonic problem or a medical condition?Discernment ♦ Is demonic possession still a problem today? YES ♦ Who can expel demons today? Prepared Saints ♦ How is it done today? Key to getting Satan and his demons to flee immediately is through immediate obedience to God's word James 4:7-8

Passage	Comments
Matthew 12:1-14	<p>Jesus (the Son of Man) is Lord of the Sabbath</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Jews knew the Letter of the Law, but failed to recognize the Spirit of the Law • The Pharisees substituted legalism for righteousness • A man's wellbeing (need for food) trumps legalism • Same thing with the man with the withered hand – his wellbeing on the Sabbath trumped the no-working law <p>Note on Restoring Withered Hands</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ B.B. Warfield presents in his book "Counterfeit Miracles" several cases of "withered hands" being healed by: 1) Faith Healers; 2) Roman Catholic Priests; 3) Mesmerism; 4) Imagination; and by 5) Deception [source: "Counterfeit Miracles", p186] • Jesus shook their foundation, so they sought to kill Him



If God is not instantaneously and supernaturally healing the tough cases today, what makes us think He's supernaturally healing easier cases? Bad Doctrine Brings False Hope and No Comfort.

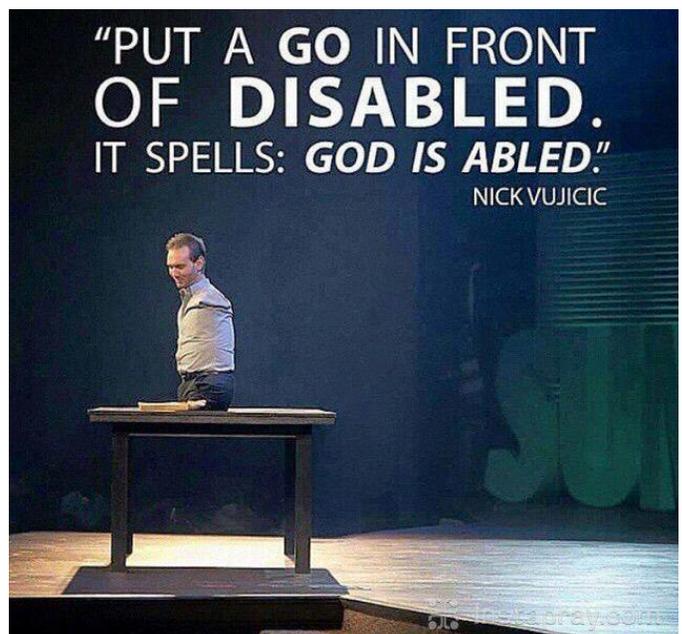
Passage	Comments
12:24-32	<p>Blaspheme Against the Holy Spirit</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Jesus stops the train after knowing their blasphemous thoughts and cautioned His listeners to think carefully about what they were saying and thinking about Him In short, blaspheme of the Holy Spirit is lifelong rejection of God's remedy for salvation through Christ v27. Note that non-believers (in this case, the sons of Pharisees) could also cast out demons. Is demonic release temporary or permanent? It depends. For believers, demonic release is permanent as the Holy Spirit takes up residence. For non-believers, it could be temporary as seen in v45 when more demons come in Consider this. Would Satan have his demon(s) to temporarily vacate someone after some do-gooders tried some "magical incantations" to exorcise a demon, even in Jesus' name? Absolutely. It's called deception.
What do Pentecostals say about Demons and Deliverance Ministries within the Church	<p>Dr. Douglas A. Oss, professor of hermeneutics and New Testament at Central Bible College (Assemblies of God), acknowledges that signs and wonders within Pentecostal churches are sometimes elevated over truth. Deliverance ministries within these Pentecostal/Charismatic groups, known for exorcising demons out of people, seem to cause more problems than what they solve because of their unbiblical approach to so-called demonic activity. [source: Are Miraculous Gifts for Today, pg 282]</p> <p>Bob DeWaay, a Pentecostal pastor, says in his article How Deliverance Ministries Lead People to Bondage, the bondage and deliverance process is very much like a cruel, spiritual "protection racket." The devil is working both ends of the game... [Satan] entices Christians who hold to the "warfare" worldview to think that their unbiblical teachings and practices are the key to freedom. Both ends of the game serve Satan's purposes. The devil puts on a convincing show to make it all so very real.</p> <p>Rod O'Neil, a former Pentecostal, in his book Where Are The Miracles, states, "According to Scripture, demonic possession is real, and all explicit and implicit teachings within Scripture do not teach that demonic possession has stopped. So we need to discern the spirits, as we are told in 1John 4:1, and be prepared to help tormented people, especially if they are ready and willing to be helped. Even the demoniacs we find in the pages of the New Testament sought Jesus out" [pg 220]</p>
	<p>Good Words → Good Fruit</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> v33. "Make the tree produce good fruit..." – We have the choice what fruit to produce in our lives <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ Good fruit begins with our thoughts, then our words, and finally our actions <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Think on good things Phil 4:8 2. Say only what is uplifting/encouraging..... Eph 4:29 3. Do what is right 1Peter 3:11 v34. "You brood of vipers..." – That doesn't sound like a nice or loving thing to say. Did Jesus say it with love? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ True discernment knows when it's time to call the baby ugly to try and correct a wrong Gal 2:11 ♦ Yes, Jesus had love for them – He died for them
12:33-37	<p>Good Words → Good Fruit</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> v33. "Make the tree produce good fruit..." – We have the choice what fruit to produce in our lives <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ Good fruit begins with our thoughts, then our words, and finally our actions <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Think on good things Phil 4:8 2. Say only what is uplifting/encouraging..... Eph 4:29 3. Do what is right 1Peter 3:11 v34. "You brood of vipers..." – That doesn't sound like a nice or loving thing to say. Did Jesus say it with love? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ True discernment knows when it's time to call the baby ugly to try and correct a wrong Gal 2:11 ♦ Yes, Jesus had love for them – He died for them
12:38-42	<p>Give us One More Sign</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> This evil generation just wanted more signs, more free food, more miracles, more handouts - give me, give me The Jews had a severe heart condition. They did not want to believe. Recall the Exodus when the Jews saw great and mighty miracles from the Lord, but, "in spite of all this, they kept on sinning; in spite of His wonders, they did not believe" Psalms 78:32 Why didn't Jesus give to him who asked of Him? We must realize this is one of those overriding principles. We are not obligated to cast pearls before swine. Jesus gave them a sign to consider – the sign of Jonah → Repent or Perish – and they perished in 70 AD

Passage	Comments
12:43-45	<p>Unclean Spirits Unite</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Example. When a person breaks an addiction on his own and doesn't replace a bad habit with a good habit, the bad habit can come back with a vengeance We must replace bad habits with good habits: e.g., "Stop stealing, start working and giving" Eph 4:28 Also, when a demon leaves a person, and the person fails to establish a firm grounding in Christ, his latter end is worse than the beginning.....2 Peter 2:20
12:46-50	<p>Who Is My Mother and Father</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> v50. Jesus makes it plain that we are considered His closest & dearest relatives when we do the will of God In John 15:14 Jesus also made it clear that "You are My friends if you do what I command you." Consider This. God wants to call each of us "friends" which means we need to show ourselves friendly, loyal, available, trustworthy, and obedient <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ Have we spent time with God this week? ♦ Have we shown kindness to friends and strangers? ♦ Have we sacrificed any possessions (time, money, effort) to further God's Kingdom? ♦ And, like Jesus, chose your Friends carefully. <i>A man with too many friends comes to ruin, but there is a friend who sticks closer than a brother.....</i> Prov 18:24

CONCLUSION / APPLICATIONS

- God provides convincing reasons to believe in Him, but not always compelling. No one is forced to believe on Him or forced to accept Him. Though, one day, everyone will be forced to stand before Him and acknowledge Him either as Lord or as Judge
- And there will come a day when the handicapped will be blessed beyond measure for their hardships on earth..... [Isaiah 56:3-5](#)
- Are we more interested in seeing and receiving the miraculous, which delivers temporary relief, or should we be more interested in hearing & sharing God's words, which delivers eternal life?

NEXT WEEK: Matthew 13. Matthew records 8 parables, and finishes with Jesus in His hometown, where He did few miracles because of unbelief. It wasn't that He couldn't, but they wouldn't.



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