



## The King in Conflict Pt 5: A House Divided Cannot Stand

July 14, 2019

HOLY TEXT: MATTHEW 12:25-28

Last week, we looked at the charge the Pharisees brought against our LORD, that He cast out devils by the prince of devils. We studied why such a thought concerning Jesus was so terrible:

1. It was **Blasphemous**. It was slander and reproach against the Creator by the creature, something the Devil would do.
2. It was **Hypocritical**. It was in keeping with the fake, false living “leaven” the Pharisees, who were deceived and promoted that deception in others, something the Devil would do.
3. It was **Accusatory**, and unjustly so, again, something the Devil would do.

So we mentioned the irony of accusing our LORD of essentially colluding with Satan while themselves imitating Satan!

We also said via application:

1. Let us take care in what we think, say, and do as it relates to the things of God. We must realize that our thoughts, words, and actions are not only open to God, but can also influence **others**.
2. Let us beware of the leaven of the Pharisees...faking a true love for God. Let us learn to be more **transparent** before our King.
3. Let us be careful how we judge spiritual things, lest we accuse wrongly and find ourselves **fighting** against God. Let's be quick to hear, slow to speak (Prov 18:13; Jam 1:19), asking God for wisdom in faith (Jam 1:5-6), not despising spiritual things (1 Thess 5:19-20), but yet testing all things in light of Scripture (1 Thess 5:21).

### A HOUSE DIVIDED CANNOT STAND!

- As we turn our attention to today's Text, we read our LORD's refutation of their accusation. He knew their thoughts and rebutted them.
- Scripture describes the Satan and other principalities as those with **temporary** authority or jurisdiction in the earth because of man's sin. (Matt 4:8-10; Luke 4:5-6; Eph 2:2; 2 Cor 4:3-4; Dan 10:11-13)
- As always, our LORD's logic is impeccable: Why would Satan, whose minion was doing his evil work by possessing and hurting the blind and mute man, cast out that same minion? Why would the Devil undo his own **devices**? (vv25-26)
- William MacDonald said our LORD “...pointed out that no kingdom, city, or house divided against itself can continue successfully. If He was casting out Satan's demons by the power of Satan, then Satan was working against himself. This would be absurd.”
- John Gill said,

*“A government, in which there is a disagreement between the chiefs of it, and the body of the people, or where one part is opposed to the other, or in which a civil and intestine war is begun and prosecuted, cannot continue in any comfortable situation, and flourishing state, but must come to nothing: this is a maxim that has been so often fatally verified, that no one will doubt the truth of it; and the same holds true of lesser communities, of cities, and families.”*

- The point and principle is this: such actions are **self-defeating**. Any entity that turns on itself will begin **destroying** itself, whether it be a kingdom, a government, business team, a sports team, a home and family, or even a single person. Matthew Henry wrote:

*Here is a known rule laid down, that in all societies a common ruin is the consequence of mutual quarrels: Every kingdom divided against itself is brought to desolation; and every family too. For what family is so strong, what community so firm, as not to be overturned by enmity and dissension? Divisions commonly end in desolations; if we clash, we break; if we divide one from another, we become an easy prey to a common enemy; much more if we bite and devour one another, shall we be consumed one of another, Gal 5:15. Churches and nations have known this by sad experience.*

#### THE DEVASTATION OF INTERNAL DIVISION:

1. Scripture warns of such a thing. (Prov 11:29, 14:1, 6:12-14; Isa 19:1-3; Gal 5:13-15; 1 Cor 3:1-3)
2. Disunity in any house can be **devastating**.
  - Whether it's arguing with your spouse, having trouble with your children, or people going different directions in the church, division in the house can be very difficult and particularly damaging. Our nation is divided politically right down the middle, and we see the overwhelming animosity that results: the division of ethnicities, churches, and even family.
  - Please know that it is possible to disagree without creating **division**; the division our LORD is speaking of is an active pulling down or fighting against one's own house.
3. Honoring jurisdictional **authority** limits division.
  - Among other things, an undivided house requires **submission** by members of the house in some form. Personal agendas must sometimes be laid down.
4. Oh friends, we are called to precious unity! (Acts 2:1-4; Eph 4:1-6; Php 1:27)
5. Imagine more unified households and relationships, churches, and communities!
  - *Psalms 133:1-3 (KJV) Behold, how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity! 2 It is like the precious ointment upon the head, that ran down upon the beard, even Aaron's beard: that went down to the skirts of his garments; 3 As the dew of Hermon, and as the dew that descended upon the mountains of Zion: for there the LORD commanded the blessing, even life for evermore.*
  - *1 Peter 3:8-11 (KJV) Finally, be ye all of one mind, having compassion one of another, love as brethren, be pitiful, be courteous: 9 Not rendering evil for evil, or railing for railing: but contrariwise blessing; knowing that ye are thereunto called, that ye should inherit a blessing. 10 For he that will love life, and see good days, let him refrain his tongue from evil, and his lips that they speak no guile: 11 Let him eschew evil, and do good; let him seek peace, and ensue it.*

#### APPLICATIONS: HOW DO WE ENSURE A MORE UNDIVIDED HOME AND CHURCH?

1. Establish **Christ**, His **Gospel**, and His **Word** as the basis for unity.
  - *Ephesians 2:19-22 (KJV) Now therefore ye are no more strangers and foreigners, but fellow citizens with the saints, and of the household of God; 20 And are built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ himself being the chief corner stone; 21 In whom all the building fitly framed together groweth unto an holy temple in the Lord: 22 In whom ye also are builded together for an habitation of God through the Spirit.*

- 2 Timothy 3:16-17 (KJV) *All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: 17 That the man of God may be perfect, throughly furnished unto all good works.*
2. **Prayer!**
- Pray for your own submissiveness of heart. (Matt 15:18-20)
  - Pray with those with whom you labor. (1 Tim 2:8)
  - Pray for those with whom you labor. (1 Thes 5:25)
3. Understand and embrace the LORD's **order**.
- There is little unity when there is confusion. (1 Cor 14:33)
  - Thankfully, in every sphere where there is division, there is also commanded order (1 Cor 14:40): in the home (Eph 5), church (1 Tim 3), and state (Rom 13).
  - Titus 1:5-11 (KJV) *For this cause left I thee in Crete, that thou shouldst set in order the things that are wanting, and ordain elders in every city, as I had appointed thee: 6 If any be blameless, the husband of one wife, having faithful children not accused of riot or unruly. 7 For a bishop must be blameless, as the steward of God; not selfwilled, not soon angry, not given to wine, no striker, not given to filthy lucre; 8 But a lover of hospitality, a lover of good men, sober, just, holy, temperate; 9 Holding fast the faithful word as he hath been taught, that he may be able by sound doctrine both to exhort and to convince the gainsayers. 10 For there are many unruly and vain talkers and deceivers, specially they of the circumcision: 11 Whose mouths must be stopped, who subvert whole houses, teaching things which they ought not, for filthy lucre's sake.*
  - Although we stumble here, in issues that do not amount to sin we must learn to joyfully submit...to be agreeable! (Eph 5:21)
  - Order is also given to, when necessary, implement discipline to maintain unity. (1 Tim 5:19-20; 2 Thes 3:14-15))
4. Maintain a posture of **humility** and **repentance**.
- God resists the proud but gives grace to the humble. (Jam 4:6)
  - Luke 17:3-4 (KJV) *Take heed to yourselves: If thy brother trespass against thee, rebuke him; and if he repent, forgive him. 4 And if he trespass against thee seven times in a day, and seven times in a day turn again to thee, saying, I repent; thou shalt forgive him.*

Let it be so LORD!