

Matthew 12:22-37

Two responses to a healing - *Matthew 12:22-24*

Once again, Jesus demonstrates that he has authority over evil and authority to rescue people from under the shadow of death. But there are two very different responses from the crowd:

(1) Some are close to getting it! v23

(2) Some are far, far away! v24

Why does the Pharisees' response not make sense? Matthew 12 v 25-29

We don't see evil spirits manifest in the same way today in 21st Century London but '*to discredit the possibility of the demonic is as foolish as to go overboard on it*' - Michael Green. What does he mean? Do you agree?

But what's the important thing for us to remember about Jesus' interactions with the demonic both in the gospels and today? (v29) And how does Col 2:15 help us?

A stern warning to His opponents - *Matthew 12: 30-37*

There is a lot of potential misunderstanding about what has sometimes been called the unpardonable sin - v31-32. To understand it, we need to **not** take it out of the context of the whole passage...

Clue 1: v30 -

Clue 2: v33-37 -

So, what do the Pharisees' words in v24 reveal about their hearts and their attitude to Jesus?

Clue 3: Read John 15:26 and 16:8

Blessed Assurance!

If we're fearful of having blasphemed the spirit - that's actually a sign we haven't... If we're trusting in Jesus for forgiveness - we can depend on that forgiveness with full assurance! Matt 12:31a; John 10:27-28