

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

I. Jesus, The Chosen Servant

- a. *Behold My servant, whom I have chosen, My beloved with whom My soul is well pleased.* (Isaiah 42:1-3)
- b. As the true Messiah, Jesus is not like most revolutionary leaders or false messiahs who seek dramatic confrontations for personal glory. He works quietly as a gentle minister of truth who has time for the weak. This is a word for the Church.
- c. Our Jesus is quiet but silent, nonviolent but powerful, gentle but passionate for God's truth.
- d. We are promised that one day Christ will bring us to a glorious victory.

II. A Strange Accusation

- a. The Pharisees accused Jesus of working by the power of Satan and not by the power of God.
- b. Jesus pointed out that their statement was both illogical and impractical.
 1. First of all every kingdom divided against itself is destined to fall.
 2. How can Jesus be *using* evil to *remove* evil? Good and evil oppose each other.
 3. Demons desire to inflict pain and cause confusion. Why would they undo their own work?
 4. How can demons *cooperate* with someone whose mission is to destroy them?
- c. Read verse 30. Notice there is no ambiguity, no compromise or middle road in this verse.
 1. There is no neutral mode with Jesus. No "kinda", "sorta", "almost" or "I'm a tryin Christian".
- d. This *absolute attitude* is critical because Christ expects and requires from those who are with Him to draw close to Him and to draw others close to themselves.

III. The Unforgiven Sin

- a. What is the sin against the Spirit? It is the resistance to the mission of God's Spirit at work in Jesus.
- b. It is trying to ruin Jesus in the eyes of others. In other words, to intentionally speak against the work of Christ among humanity so that others will not trust Him. (Luke 17:1-2)
- c. How can God forgive the words spoken against the Son, and yet not forgive the words spoken against the Spirit?
- d. While Jesus was ministering on *earth words spoken against Him could be forgiven.*
 1. When the Holy Spirit came at Pentecost He served as proof that Jesus was the Christ.
 2. For someone to reject the witness of the Holy Spirit in their life... that sin is unforgivable (v.31-32). (Read John 15:26; 1 Cor 12:3; 1 John 4:2-3; 1 John 4:13)
 3. When religious leaders rejected John the Baptist they were rejecting the Father who sent him.
 4. When they rejected the ministry of the apostles, they rejected the Holy Spirit.
- e. The Holy Spirit is at work in the world drawing men to Christ, but not all will receive Him. (John 12:32)
- f. It is the Spirit who bears witness to Christ (John 15:26) and who convicts the sinner (John 16:7-11).

IV. Thoughts and Considerations for Action

- a. Today, we do not contend against flesh and blood, but against the principalities, against the powers, against the world rulers of this present darkness." (Eph 6:12)
- b. What are the negative or positive impacts of a *lukewarm* witness?
- c. How do you convince a *lukewarm Christian* to become a *hot Christian*?