



# The Turning Point

The “Busy Day”

# Remember Jesus' Focus

1. To give Israel every chance to repent and accept His offer of Himself and His kingdom.
2. To leave Israel with no excuse for her hardness and rejection of His offer.

## **A Change in Focus**

**The great turning point of the Galilean Ministry - and of the ministry of Jesus as a whole - came on the “busy day” which occurred well into the Great Galilean Ministry.**

# Jesus' "Busy Day"

- The two primary events (for our purposes):

1. The accusation that Jesus was in league with Beelzebub ("unpardonable sin")

2. The discourse of parables concerning the kingdom of God

# By Harmonizing the Gospels

- It is possible to trace the events of one remarkable day late in the 2nd tour through Galilee – remarkable primarily for the spirit of rejection which manifested itself on this day.
- This day is clearly a turning point in Jesus' ministry; indeed, it marks the beginning of the end of that ministry – and thus of an extended period during which Jesus' focus has been public presentation of Himself to the nation.

## Matthew 12:22-24

**22** Then a demon-possessed man who was blind and mute was brought to Jesus, and He healed him, so that the mute man spoke and saw. **23** All the crowds were amazed, and were saying, “This man cannot be the Son of David, can he?” **24** But when the Pharisees heard this, they said, “This man casts out demons only by Beelzebul the ruler of the demons.”

# This Miracle

- Is specifically foretold of Messiah –
- **Isaiah 42:7, 35:6 –**  
“To open blind eyes, To bring out prisoners  
from the dungeon And those who dwell in  
darkness from the prison...Then the lame  
will leap like a deer, And the tongue of the  
mute will shout for joy...”

# The Question of the People

- **ESV:** “Can this be the Son of David?”
- **KJV:** “Is not this the son of David?”
- **HCSB:** “Perhaps this is the Son of David!”
- **NET:** “Could this one be the Son of David?”

**NASB:** “This man cannot be the Son of David, can he?”

# **An Opportune Moment**

**The skeptical question of the multitudes:**

**“This man cannot be the Son of David, can he?”**

**Caused the Pharisees to sense the time was at hand, and to bring this public charge against Him.**

# A Blasphemous Accusation

- **Matthew 12:24** – But when the Pharisees heard this, they said, “This man casts out demons only by Beelzebul the ruler of the demons.”
- **The accusation is repeated in Matthew 9:34** – But the Pharisees said, “He casts out the demons by the ruler of the demons.”

# Concerning the “Unpardonable Sin”

- Notice that rumors were being spread abroad as to the mental stability of Jesus:
- **Mark 3:20-21 –**

And He came home, and the crowd gathered again, to such an extent that they could not even eat a meal. When His own people heard of this, they went out to take custody of Him; for they were saying, “He has lost His senses.”

## Matthew 12:25-29

**25** And knowing their thoughts Jesus said to them, “Any kingdom divided against itself is laid waste; and any city or house divided against itself will not stand. **26** If Satan casts out Satan, he is divided against himself; how then will his kingdom stand? **27** If I by Beelzebul cast out demons, by whom do your sons cast them out? For this reason they will be your judges. **28** But if I cast out demons by the Spirit of God, then the kingdom of God has come upon you. **29** Or how can anyone enter the strong man’s house and carry off his property, unless he first binds the strong man? And then he will plunder his house.

# Notice:

- The careful argumentation which Jesus uses to demonstrate the moral corruption of His accusers; He shows how utterly illogical their charge was.
- **The implication: if the charge is foolishness, it must have been generated out an evil heart.**
- There are three steps in Jesus' argument here...

## **Step #1**

**1. If Satan casts out demons, his house is divided against itself; he is using his power to destroy himself (12:26).**

## Step #2

2. There is a double standard here; you Pharisees have disciples who claim to exorcize, and yet you never accuse them of partnership with the demons they supposedly drive away. What is it about me that “forces” you to conclude that I have such a partnership? (12:27)

## Step #3

3. Only God is greater than Satan; if I do not cast demons out by Satan - and I have shown that it is foolishness to suggest that I do - then I must do it by God! And if that is so, I must be truthful in all that I say. And if that is so, the kingdom has indeed come upon you, just as I have insisted (12:28,29).

# The Coup de Grace

- Jesus publicly turns the accusation back upon the Pharisees in 12:30!

**“He who is not with Me is against Me; and he who does not gather with Me scatters.”**

In the following verses, Jesus assesses the seriousness of the charge leveled against Him.



# Matthew 12:31-37

**So, the Question is:**

**What is the “Unpardonable Sin?”**

**And...**

**Was this a specific condemnation  
or can it still be committed today?**

# **There is Much Discussion**

**As to the specific character of the sin of “blaspheming the Holy Spirit”; it is an important discussion, but don’t miss the undeniable emphasis of this passage – in committing that sin, the masses have chosen to believe the lying excuse of the Pharisees, and thus to reject Jesus’ claims concerning Himself, in spite of the unimpeachable evidence He has just given them in this remarkable miracle.**

## **Notice Also**

**Two events  
immediately follow the  
experience of the  
“unpardonable sin” on  
this “busy day.”**

**Event #1:**  
**Matthew**  
**12:38-45**



# Event #1

- **The Scribes and Pharisees demand a sign**
- **Jesus responds with the sign of Jonah and with a scathing metaphorical analysis of the effect Pharisaiism had had upon the Jewish people.**

**This is the 1<sup>st</sup>**

**Of at least 3 times that Jesus  
refuses any sign but that of  
Jonah.**

**The others are Matthew 16:4  
and Luke 11:30**



**Event #2: Matthew 12:46-50**

**This Story is Also Found in:**

**Mark 3:31-35**

**And**

**Luke 8:19-21**

# Hard Times

- This is a remarkably difficult time for Jesus, as His own family – including His mother – come to take Him home, thinking Him to be out of His mind.
- Contemplate the travail of soul Jesus must have felt as word came that His own family thought Him mad.

# Understand:

Jesus is living up to a very difficult but very clear OT ethic.

“Looking about at those who were sitting around Him, He said, “Behold My mother and My brothers! For whoever does the will of God, he is My brother and sister and mother.”

(Mark 3:34-35)

# Exodus 32:25-29

**25** Now when Moses saw that the people were out of control—for Aaron had let them get out of control to be a derision among their enemies— **26** then Moses stood in the gate of the camp, and said, “Whoever is for the Lord, come to me!” And all the sons of Levi gathered together to him. **27** He said to them, “Thus says the Lord, the God of Israel, ‘Every man of you put his sword upon his thigh, and go back and forth from gate to gate in the camp, and kill every man his brother, and every man his friend, and every man his neighbor.’” **28** So the sons of Levi did as Moses instructed, and about three thousand men of the people fell that day. **29** Then Moses said, “Dedicate yourselves today to the Lord—for every man has been against his son and against his brother—in order that He may bestow a blessing upon you today.”

# Profound Statement of the Day

The great key to understanding  
Matthew 13 is that it comes  
right after Matthew 12!



# **The 1<sup>st</sup> Great Group of Parables**

**1. Basic to understanding these parables is an awareness of their setting in the ministry of Jesus.**

# The Disciples Response



But, the purpose of speaking in parables at this time is expressly stated in Matthew 13:10-17.

## **An Interesting Question:**

**Could the perception that Jesus was “out of his mind” have anything to do with strategy He was employing at this time?**

# The Parables (Public)

1. **The sower (vv. 18-23)** - the chief response to the Kingdom message you disciples are bearing will be rejection.
2. **The weeds/tares (vv. 24-30; 36-43)** - many will believe a counterfeit message, spread by Satan, and it will not be until the end of the age that you will be able to distinguish true believers from the counterfeit.
3. **The mustard seed (vv. 31-32)** - this “kingdom” which you perceive - this crescendo of fascination manifested by the people - is an aberration; every sort of bird finds harbor in this, and it is not the kingdom that you expect.
4. **The leaven (v. 33)** - the disbelieving attitude of the Pharisees, which seems so peculiar and inconsequential to you in the face of the popular excitement which you so enjoy, will in fact spread throughout the nation soon enough.

# Notice In This Regard:

That the first 2 parables are spoken publicly but interpreted privately, the next 2 are spoken publicly without recorded interpretation, and the last 3 are spoken privately.

- **Matthew 13:36 –**

“Then He left the crowds and went into the house. And His disciples came to Him and said, “Explain to us the parable of the tares of the field.”

# The Parables (Private)

5. **The hidden treasure and the pearl ( vv.44-46) -** even though there is great cost involved in clinging to the truth concerning the Kingdom, it is worth it.
6. **The dragnet (vv. 47-50) -** at the end of the age God will finally and truthfully separate true believers from impostors and deniers.
7. **New and old treasures (vv. 51-52) –** true disciples grow in understanding; they understand both the “new” revelation from Jesus and how it fulfills the “old” promises in the OT.

# Additional Parables in Mark 4

1. **The lamp under a basket (vv. 21-25)** – the person who welcomes God's rule and presence will be given more of God's intended fruit; the one who depends on his own resources without receiving the word will lose even that.
2. **The seed growing (vv. 26-29)** – Fruit from God's kingdom grows from soil that is hospitable to His word; the gradual development goes against the popular expectation at the time of Jesus that God's kingdom would come suddenly and all at once.

## Matthew 13:51-52

**51** “Have you understood all these things?” They said to Him, “Yes.”

**52** And Jesus said to them,  
“Therefore every scribe who has become a disciple of the kingdom of heaven is like a head of a household, who brings out of his treasure things new and old.”

**Next Week:**

**Jesus' "Busy Day"  
Comes to an End,  
and so Does the  
Galilean Ministry.**

