



Go for God!

“Choose Well My Friend, Choose Right!”

MATTHEW Chapter 12:22-50

> **Choice #1 - (v22-32) CHOOSE TO BELIEVE, NOT BLASPHEMEY!**

> **Choice #2 - (v33-37) CHOOSE GOOD, NOT EVIL!**

> **Choice #3 - (v38-45) CHOOSE THE SAVIOR, NOT SIN!**

> **Choice #4 - (v46-50) CHOOSE YOUR BLOODLINE FROM JESUS CHRIST!**

> **Choice #1 - (v22-32) CHOOSE TO BELIEVE, NOT BLASPHEME!**

(v22-23) **Jesus heals a demon-possessed, blind, and mute man.** This prisoner of the devil is set free! This man lived in darkness and now he sees the “Light of the world.” This man can now speak of the wonderful works of God through His Lord and Savior Jesus Christ! Notice the multitudes said, “Could this be the Son of David?” In other words, their promised Messiah.

(v24) **The Pharisees reject the power of God working through Jesus.** Truly a miracle was performed before their very eyes, but their hearts are hardened; envy, jealousy, bitterness, and murder has filled their souls, whereas, they call Jesus “Beelzebub” (Satan), the ruler of the demons. Today our Christian nation is called the “Great Satan.” The same anti-Christ heart is within many of mankind as it was with the Pharisees. America is not perfect, yet we have tried to follow our Christian heritage through charitable deeds such as feeding the hungry, healing the sick, and defending the defenseless throughout the world.

(v25-30) **Observe how Jesus reasons with the Pharisees, He uses sound logic to remedy their flawed statement:**

(1) A house divided cannot stand;

(2) Your own sons have cast out demons; how did they do it;

(3) this is the work of God; thus, His Kingdom is amongst you;

(4) Since the evidence is overwhelming are you with Jesus or against Him? Do you gather or scatter?

(v31-32) **The unpardonable sin, blasphemy against the Holy Spirit!**

- **What is BLASPHEMY?** - The act of cursing, slandering, reviling, or showing contempt or lack of reverence for God. In the Old Testament, blaspheming God was a serious crime punishable by death (Lev 24:15-16).

It was a violation of the Third Commandment, which required that the name and reputation of the Lord be upheld - Exodus 20:7 - You shall not take the name of the LORD your God in vain, for the LORD will not hold him guiltless who takes His name in vain.

The unbelieving Jews of Jesus' day charged Him with blasphemy because they thought of Him only as a man while He claimed to be God's Son (**Matt 9:3**). The lawlessness of the Jews themselves was causing God's name to be blasphemed among the Gentiles (**Rom 2:24**).

By their bitter opposition to Jesus and His gospel, they themselves were guilty of blasphemy (**Acts 18:6**). **Jesus condemned as blasphemy their attributing the work of the Holy Spirit to Satan** (Matt 12:31-32).¹

If one rejects the conviction and call of the Holy Spirit for salvation to the point of death, they have fulfilled the blasphemy against the Holy Spirit.

If anyone has a concern that they've committed the *blasphemy of the Holy Spirit* or *the unpardonable sin*, then this would be evidential that they have NOT done it. If one has blasphemed the Holy Spirit, they would not be concerned about it.

¹ Nelson's Illustrated Bible Dictionary

- Take note that there is life after death, "*the age to come.*"

> ***Choice #2 - (v33-37) CHOOSE GOOD, NOT EVIL!***

- Jesus gives three illustrations that point to *justification or condemnation?*

(v33) *A good or bad tree - If a tree is good, its fruit is good! The Christian tree is the cross of Jesus Christ. A cross of love and humility, grace and mercy, forgiveness, and peace, therefore the fruit of Christ is revealed in His followers/disciples/Christians.*

But the tree that is bad is the tree with the knowledge of good and evil, mankind vacillates between the two and that's the best we can do. We are imperfect, incomplete, indecent, indifferent, filled with wicked imaginations; and without the power of Christ we cannot produce good fruit.

- So, the Pharisees, religious leaders in fact, were full of bad fruit for they rejected the tree of life, a life that is more abundant!

(v34-35) *A good or bad treasure in the heart* - The Holy Scriptures declare the following about the human heart in Jeremiah 17:9-10 - *The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked; who can know it? I, the LORD, search the heart, I test the mind, even to give every man according to his ways, according to the fruit of his doings.*

Yet, God says He will give us a new heart - Ezekiel 36:26-28 - *I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit within you; I will take the heart of stone out of your flesh and give you a heart of flesh. I will put My Spirit within you and cause you to walk in My statutes, and you will keep My judgments and do them.*

The word *treasure* is *thesauros* in Greek, from which we get our English word **thesaurus**, *a treasury of words*. What words are found in your treasure chest? **Blessing** or cursing, **love** or hate, **kind** or cruel, **positive** or negative, **compassionate** or critical, **honest** or deceitful, **edifying** or belittling, **praise and thanksgiving** or passive and unresponsive.

(v36-37) Every idle word will be accounted for on the *Day of Judgment* if you're not a Christian (Rev. 20:11-15). Or by your words you will be *justified* (Romans 10:9-13).

> ***Choice #3 - (v38-45) CHOOSE THE SAVIOR, NOT SIN!***

(v38-39) What kind of generation will not believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Messiah, the Savior? Jesus said, "*an evil and adulterous generation.*" What is an "*evil and adulterous generation?*" The relation of the Jews to God was often represented as a marriage contract-God as the husband, and the Jewish people as the wife.

- Listen to Hosea 3:1 - "*Then the LORD said to me, "Go again, love a woman who is loved by a lover and is committing adultery, just like the love of the LORD for the children of Israel, who look to other gods and love the raisin cakes of the pagans."* Hence, their apostasy and idolatry are often represented as adultery. They were evil, and unfaithful to the covenant or to the commandments of God-an apostate and corrupt people.

(v40-41) **What sign will be given?** The sign of the prophet Jonah, *three days, and nights in the belly of the great fish*, so will the Son of Man be in the heart of the earth.

- **Understanding three days and three nights** - *Three days and three nights* was an emphatic way of saying "three days," and by Jewish reckoning this would be an apt way of expressing a period that includes parts of 3 days. Thus, if Christ was crucified on a Friday, and His resurrection occurred on the first day of the week, by Hebrew reckoning this would qualify as 3 days and 3 nights. All sorts of elaborate schemes have been devised to suggest that Christ might have died on

a Wednesday or Thursday, just to accommodate the extreme literal meaning of these words. But the original meaning would not have required that sort of wooden interpretation.

- **Jesus is greater than Jonah!** – One commentator writes, “Jesus is greater in His person, for Jonah was a mere man. He was greater in His obedience, for Jonah disobeyed God and was chastened. Jesus died, while Jonah's "grave" was in the belly of the great fish. Jesus arose from the dead under His own power. Jonah ministered only to one city, while Jesus gave His life for the whole world. Certainly, Jesus was greater in His love, for Jonah did not love the people of Nineveh - he wanted them to die. Jonah's message saved Nineveh from judgment he was a messenger of the wrath of God. Jesus' message was that of grace and salvation. When we trust Christ, we are not only saved from judgment, but we receive eternal, abundant life.”

(v42) **Who is the Queen of Sheba?** This queen came from the southern region of Saudi Arabia, possibly the region of modern-day Yemen, and a 1200-mile journey to Jerusalem seeking the wisdom of King Solomon. **How great is the “wisdom of Solomon?” Turn to 2 Chronicles 9:1-12.** Jesus is greater! His life, His teachings, His love, His humility, His forgiveness, His purity, His power, His salvation, His resurrection, and He’s the Son of God which proves He infinitely surpasses King Solomon.

(v43-45) **Reformation vs. Regeneration** – This illustration reveals a man who has self-reformation, the demon has gone out of him, but the man will not replace the vacancy with Christ. Thus, in time he has no power to overcome the temptation to receive the demon plus seven more and his second state is worst; than the first. Jesus speaks this demonic overthrow regarding that “*wicked generation*” of Jews that rejected the One of whom Moses and the Prophets declared. They disregarded Jesus as their Messiah and they rejected His teachings and miracles. Peter gives a similar rebuke to false folks in the church, **2 Peter 2:20-22** - *For if, after they have escaped the pollutions of the world through the knowledge of the Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, they are again entangled in them and overcome, the latter end is worse for them than the beginning. For it would have been better for them not to have known the way of righteousness, than having known it, to turn from the holy commandment delivered to them. But it has happened to them according to the true proverb: "A dog returns to his own vomit," and, "a sow, having washed, to her wallowing in the mire."* Remember when Jesus healed the ten lepers and only one responded; all were reformed, but only one was saved (Luke 17:11-19).

> **Choice #4 - (v46-50) CHOOSE YOUR BLOODLINE FROM JESUS CHRIST!**

(v46-47) Notice that Jesus had brothers and in Matthew 13:55-56 we’re told He has sisters. Mary was not a perpetual virgin; she and Joseph had a large family. Jesus brothers were James, Joses, Simon and Judas, plus sisters whose names are not listed.

(v48-50) **Here Jesus brings priority to life!** - First, God is our Creator and Father; second, Jesus is our Savior, Lord, and bridegroom; third, the Holy Spirit fills, empowers, sanctifies, and works in and through our lives; fourth, we love one another greater with the love of Jesus Christ!

- We are told in John 1:12-13 - ***But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, to those who believe in His name: who were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God.***

And in Romans 8:14-17 - ***For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, these are sons of God. For you did not receive the spirit of bondage again to fear, but you received the Spirit of adoption by whom we cry out, "Abba, Father." The Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, and if children, then heirs — heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ, if indeed we suffer with Him, that we may also be glorified together.***