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## The Parables of Jesus Christ: A Kingdom Divided, A Strong Man Subdued

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# THE PARABLES OF JESUS CHRIST

## PARABLE TEN: A Kingdom Divided, A Strong Man Subdued (Mt. 12:25-29; Mk. 3:23-30)

### SURVEY

- Any kingdom at war against itself, or any city or home divided against itself is doomed.
- One cannot enter a house, rob it, and harm its members without first subduing the strong man of that house.

### SIGNIFICANCE

This parable concludes with the only reference to the unpardonable sin in the entire Bible.

*"Wherefore I say unto you, All manner of sin and blasphemy shall be forgiven unto men: but the blasphemy against the Holy Ghost shall not be forgiven unto men. And whosoever speaketh a word against the Son of man, it shall be forgiven him: but whosoever speaketh against the Holy Ghost, it shall not be forgiven him, neither in this world, neither in the world to come."* (Mt. 12:31-32)

### SPIRITUAL TRUTHS

- Jesus offers a three-fold argument to counteract the accusation that He was casting out demons by the power of Satan:
  1. If the devil empowered Him to do this, then he, Satan, would be destroying his own kingdom.
  2. Jesus was successfully doing that which their own Jewish exorcists had claimed to be able to do.
  3. Since He had cast out one of Satan's demons it only stood to reason that He was more powerful than the devil!
- As has been previously observed, Jesus concludes this parable with a somber warning regarding the unpardonable sin. Much ink has been spilled over these words. What is this unforgivable and unpardonable sin? Who can commit it? Can it be done today? Two main views have been offered to explain this sin.
  1. First view — The first view is that the sin can be committed by any unbeliever today and occurs when a sinner rejects the convicting voice of the Holy Spirit once too often. At this point, the Holy Spirit forever ceases to deal with the sinner and he is hopelessly condemned, with no chance of salvation, however he may later desire it. Genesis 6:3 is sometimes offered in support of this theory.

*"And the LORD said, My spirit shall not always strive with man, for that he also is flesh: yet his days shall be an hundred and twenty years."*

However, an examination of the passage shows this meaning is taken completely out of its context. In reality there is no scriptural basis for the first theory.

2. Second view—The second view is that the sin was dispensational in nature, that it was the sin of ascribing to Satan the earthly miracles performed by our Savior and therefore cannot be committed today. This theory is generally held by the majority of Bible students and the passage context would seem to support its accuracy.

*"Then was brought unto him one possessed with a devil, blind, and dumb: and he healed him, insomuch that the blind and dumb both spake and saw. And all the people were amazed, and said, Is not this the son of David? But when the Pharisees heard it, they said, This fellow doth not cast out devils, but by Beelzebub the prince of the devils." (Mt. 12:22-24)*