



Title: More Oppositions to the King (part 3) – The Pharisees & Blasphemy of the Holy Ghost

Text: Matt. 12:33-42

33 Either make the tree good, and his fruit good; or else make the tree corrupt, and his fruit corrupt: for the tree is known by his fruit. 34 O generation of vipers, how can ye, being evil, speak good things? for out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaketh. 35 A good man out of the good treasure of the heart bringeth forth good things: and an evil man out of the evil treasure bringeth forth evil things. 36 But I say unto you, That every idle word that men shall speak, they shall give account thereof in the day of judgment. 37 For by thy words thou shalt be justified, and by thy words thou shalt be condemned.

Introduction:

1. The Lord used the same “tree” illustration in Matt. 7:15-20 – to expose the hypocrisy of the Pharisees. Words and work indicate character. But here in v.33 – words are a manifestation of the heart. The blasphemy that was pouring out of the mouth of the Pharisees will be what will condemn them in the future.
2. The Pharisaic blasphemy of the Holy Spirit marked a division between Jesus and the apostate religious authorities.

I. The Division Between Jesus and the Pharisees (vv.33-37)

- A. Good tree – Jesus; the Corrupt tree – the Pharisees.
- B. “O generation of vipers” (John the Baptist, Matt. 3:7; Lk. 3:7).
- C. This breach is final and irreparable.

II. The Scribes and Pharisees Opposition by Seeking for A Sign (vv.38-40)

- A. The apostate religious leaders are set against the Lord Jesus. Their request for a sign is simply an expression of their antagonistic unbelief.
- B. The Lord Jesus refused their request but grants them the “sign of Jonah” – the prophet to the Gentiles – Gentiles will get saved before Israel. They will receive the message that Israel refused.
- C. The Lord Jesus’ “Jonah sign” demands a 72-hour burial (Wed. view).

Conclusion:

1. Unbelief is exemplified by those who ask God for a sign AGAINST His clearly revealed and proclaimed truth.
2. People will be judged according to the opportunities presented to them.