**The Parables of Jesus Pt. 7**

**Ivy Baptist Church Bible Study**

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**Review:**

* **Parable: A simple story (usually real or involving real life situations) to illustrate a moral or spiritual lesson**
* **At least 1/3 of Jesus’ teachings were told in parables.**
* **All of His parables were told in the synoptic gospels (Matthew, Mark and Luke). John’s gospel doesn’t have them.**
* **Matthew: 23 Parables (11 unique), Mark 8 parables (2 unique) and Luke 24 parables (18 unique)**

**Mark 3:23-29: The Parable of the Strong Man**

**Context:**

* **Jesus and His disciples enter a house and a crowd appears. House is PACKED! His crew wanted to get Jesus out of there! (vs. 20-21)**
* **Religious leaders show up and say He’s demon possessed. By demons Jesus is able to drive out demons (vs. 22)**

**Main Text:**

* **Jesus calls the religious leaders over to Him and speaks (vs. 23)**
* **How can Satan drive out Satan? (vs. 23)**
* **A kingdom & house divided against itself cannot stand (vs. 24-25)**
* **If Satan fights himself and is divided, he can’t stand either and his reign is over! (vs. 26)**
* **You can’t walk into a “strong man’s” house without first tying him up! Then you can plunder the house (vs. 27)**

**Lesson #1: The leaders said Jesus is the prince of demons, that’s how He drives out demons:**

* **Jesus’ response: If anyone fights themselves they can’t stand, because they will have NO power to fight others (vs. 26)**
* **This accusation is FALSE**

**Lesson #2: The leaders said Jesus is demon possessed:**

* **Jesus’ response: “Strong man” (Vs. 27)**
* **Strong man is Satan**
* **Only the One who has the POWER to “tie up” the strong man can then plunder his “house” (take back what belongs to Him)**
* **This accusation is also FALSE. Jesus is more powerful than the “strong man”**

**Lesson #3: The “root” of the religious’ leaders (and others) problem**

* **Mark 3:28-29**
* **All sins can be forgiven, except blaspheming the Holy Spirit**
* **That sin will NEVER be forgiven**

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* **What is blaspheming the Holy Spirit?**
* **One who rejects the TRUE power of Jesus Christ**
* **One who is defiant against God’s offer of salvation through Jesus Christ**
* **One who dismisses the works and power of the Holy Spirit (you attribute them to Satan)**
* **One who prefers to walk in darkness after COUNTLESS attempts to receive Christ**
* **What is penalty for blaspheming the Holy Spirit?**
* **They are guilty of an ETERNAL sin**
* **Eternal sin = eternal separation from God**

**Conclusion:**

* **We should NEVER give credit to others for what GOD is doing!**
* **To dismiss the power of God has an ETERNAL consequence**
* **The “strong man” has some power, Jesus has ALL POWER!**