



Sermon Notes: "Sent to Divide Kingdoms"

Matthew 12:22-37

4.26.26

Divided Kingdoms:

- In moments that we "talk the talk" but *don't* "walk the walk"—what are we protecting ourselves from?
- You can disagree on style and still be united in Savior.
- There is no neutral ground with Jesus.

The Unforgiveable Sin:

Context Matters:

- Jesus is speaking directly to the Pharisees who have just attributed the obvious work of God's Spirit to Satan.
- The Pharisees were in a unique moment in history. Never before had so much divine light been granted to men.
- Jesus declared their willful blindness to be unpardonable – not because God couldn't forgive, but because they had set their course and refused to turn back.

The Broader Principle:

- The unforgivable sin is the final refusal to accept God's grace.

So What?

- You can only pour out what you've stored in. So, what have you been storing up?

Know your next step – and take it.

For Study, Reflection, Discussion During the Week:

Life Group ICEBREAKER: The sermon opened with the question: 'Why is there a gap between how we talk and how we walk?' Before we dig into the passage — what's your honest gut answer to that question? What do you think is usually behind that gap for most people?

REVIEW:

Review the sermon notes from Sunday. Was there a particular point that stuck with you? What was it and why did it resonate with you?

READ: Matthew 12:22-29

- The Pharisees couldn't deny the miracle, so they attacked the source — attributing Jesus' power to Satan. The sermon pointed out that they were protecting their power, prestige, and identity. When you are confronted with a truth that challenges something you've built your identity around, what is your honest first reaction? What does that reveal about what you've been protecting?
 - Jesus said, "Any kingdom divided by civil war is doomed." The sermon applied this to the church — that we can disagree on style and still be united in our Savior. Where have you seen division within the church cause real damage? What does it look like in practice to stay unified around Jesus even when you disagree with other believers?
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READ: Matthew 12:30

- "Whoever is not with me is against me." Jesus leaves no room for neutrality. The sermon pointed out that we're either gathering people toward Him or scattering them away. In which areas of your life — work, home, social media, friendships — is it hardest to stay clearly on Jesus' side rather than drifting into a kind of comfortable middle ground?
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DEPLOY:

1. Audit Your Treasury. Set aside 15 minutes this week for an honest audit. Ask yourself: What am I consistently consuming — media, conversations, content? What voices am I letting shape me? Is what I'm storing in producing the fruit I want coming out? Identify one thing to remove and one thing to add and tell someone in your group about it so they can hold you to it.

2. Know Your Next Step — and Take It. The sermon named several possible next steps: showing up consistently on Sunday, engaging your neighbors, reading Scripture daily. Which one is your next step right now? Name it out loud to your group. Then do it this week — not because it earns you anything, but because you can only pour out what you store in.

Don't Forget:

- Consider volunteering at VBS this year, June 8th - 12th talk to Shaun for more information
 - Graduation Sunday May 24th!
 - Cove Camp 2026 – Register using the QR code in the bulletin or go to our church website.
 - Meal Train - Consider volunteering to bring a meal to one of our church members in need. Find more information in the bulletin or on the church website.
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Prayer:

Father, You already know what's in our treasuries. You know what we've been storing up — the things we're proud of and the things we'd be embarrassed to say out loud. We don't want to be people who talk a good game but walk a different one. We don't want to compartmentalize You into the parts of life that feel safe. We want You to be Lord of all of it. The person we are when everyone is watching and the person we are when no one is. So, search us, God. Show us where the gap is. Forgive us where we've let the wrong things fill our hearts and give us the grace to start making different deposits — in Your Word, in prayer, in community, in honest surrender. We want what comes out of us to look like You. Transform us from the inside out — not by our effort alone, but by the power of the same Spirit that raised Jesus from the dead and lives in us.

In Jesus' name, Amen.