

Theme: The power and authority of Jesus demonstrates that the Kingdom of God has come. There is, therefore, no “neutral” stance in regard to that Kingdom.

Background: Luke 9:51 and the road to Jerusalem

Introduction: Do we look for the simplest, clear solution or try to find a way around that? The Jews try to avoid the obvious power of Jesus – with a radical explanation of his work.

I. A Kingdom Challenge (14-16)

Kingdom Power is demonstrated. Whose Kingdom is at work??

A. Blessing? (14)

1. A man delivered from demon who made him mute
 - Most natural explanation? The Power of God
2. The people marveled (Matthew 12:23)

B. Blaspheming? (15)

1. This man *can't* speak in power of God. “We do!”
 - a. He's working for Satan!
 - Beelzebul - (“Lord of the House”)
 - 2 Kings 1 (“*Lord of the Flies*”)
 - b. The Pharisees blaspheme
 - attribute work of the Spirit of God to Satan!
2. Seeking a “sign”!
 - Prove you are the Messiah with an irrefutable “sign”

NOTE: No manner of “evidence” can convince someone – unbelief isn't a matter of evidence. It is a **matter of the heart!**

Knowing their thoughts – Jesus responds.

II. The Kingdom Come (17-22)

A. A House Divided?

1. Satan's plan/goal?
 - Strike at God by marring the image of God in mankind
 - Destroy what God has made - make it in *his* (Satan's) image
2. Satan at war with his own servants?
 - Civil war in the ranks?
 - The kingdom will *fall*
3. Your own “sons” will judge you!

B. The *Finger* of God (20) (Matthew 12:28 – “Spirit of God”)

1. True deliverance from oppression
 - The mark of the King
 - His “prints” are all over the work of Jesus!

2. Satan's power is broken (21,22)
 - a. "Strong" man has held power – held people captive
 - Laid claim to his kingdom (2 Corinthians 4:4)
 - b. One stronger still!!
 - Takes his armor!
 - Takes back his possessions
3. The Kingdom of God *has* come!!
 - Language is that of "without question"
 - You must suppress the truth to deny it!

Question: Am I "waiting" for his Kingdom or "taking it back"?

III. The Kingdom Choices (23-26)

- A. For Him or against Him (23)
 1. The other side of Luke 9:50
 2. No *neutral* ground! Not like modern surveys
 - a. Not actively "with" Jesus?
 - You are his enemy – against him
 - b. But... "I have nothing against Jesus"
 - But you are not "with" Him
 - c. Not bringing people *to* him?
 - You are working against his kingdom
 - d. An indictment of the leaders of the Jews!
 - Scattering the people
 - e. The disciples?
 - Gathering to the ends of the earth
- B. No "Empty" Houses (24-26)
 1. Concerning individuals
 2. Concerning Judah
 - a. A warning to the Jewish people
 - He has been "cleaning house"
 - b. He is before them.
 - They must choose

IV. Kingdom Action (Conclusion)

1. Who is "blessed"? (27,28)
2. Jesus speaks to a culture that is trying to "clean house" with self-help books and empty lives. John 7:37
3. We must make choices every day. "Undecided" is not on the list.