

1. In this section we see **kingdoms in conflict**. Jesus' "mighty attesting work" generates disagreement as to its source. Jesus' enemies could not deny the fact of the miracle. So they assigned its power to being in league with the devil.
2. For the competing sides, certain truths are accepted as 'givens' (we won't argue about these) – there is a kingdom of God and there is an opposing kingdom of darkness of which Satan is the chief. A fierce warfare is being waged in and for the souls of men. (Bunyan's The Holy War)
3. Jesus' opponents claim that He cast out the demon by the power of Satan (Beelzebul). Jesus is willing to engage the argument – not only to defend Himself, but to defend the truth and help people to escape from their deception by use of their minds.
4. **Those who oppose Christ Jesus regularly have their logical powers upset.** "Think!" If they insist on continuing in their opposition to Christ, God gives them over to a "reprobate" mind (Romans 1:28).
5. Notice the sequence and structure of the argument: "if Satan..." "and if I..." "but if I..." "then..."
6. **First argument:** Would Satan work in opposition to himself? No, why would he do that? Such divided kingdoms do not stand. Kings don't work for the disintegration of their kingdoms.
7. **Second argument:** What about your sons? When they cast out demons, what power do they work in conjunction with? The obvious answer believed by the Pharisees would be, "our sons do it by God's power." And you say I am acting in conjunction with Satan? (There are no other possibilities.) But think! Then we would have two viciously warring kingdoms working to achieve identical results. Opposite causes producing the identical effect. Impossible!
8. No one raises an objection to Jesus' logic, so He continues, to the **Conclusion(s)**

God's Spirit, not Satan, is at work in Me (Mt. 12:28).
The Kingdom of God has come.
I am THE Strong Man. I am the King. (This is not "dualism".)
9. **So, there is personal action to be taken.**

You had better come over to My side.
Surrender to My Kingship.
Work with Me. Gather with Me.
10. **That will require repentance and faith.**
11. It is extremely dangerous to a person's soul to engage in repentance without faith. The two acts must go together. "I have declared to both Jews and Greeks that they must turn to God in repentance and have faith in our Lord Jesus" (Acts 20:21). **A warning, don't put yourself into this position.** You must turn away from something in order to turn toward something else. It is necessary to both "take off" and to "put on." Evil will always be seeking a vacuum. How many people have replaced one addiction for another? **A "half-salvation" will eventuate in a more fearful condemnation.**
12. **Oh, one more thing. One unnamed woman expresses her agreement.** She pronounces a beatitude. But is this blessedness only for a few, select, hereditary family members? No, but for **all who will "hear the Word of God and keep it."**