

Jesus taught that if our Father was not the Living God, then the Devil was still our father. God has chosen to bring us from the Kingdom of darkness into the Kingdom of Light.

Jesus was equating Himself with His Father, "Yahweh." By doing so He was alienating the religious leaders because of His "blasphemy."

you cannot hear My word. You are of your father the devil, and you want to do the desires of your father. He was a murderer from the beginning, and does not stand in the truth, because there is no truth in him. Whenever he speaks a lie, he speaks from his own nature; for he is a liar, and the father of lies. But because I speak the truth, you do not believe Me. Which one of you convicts Me of sin? If I speak truth, why do you not believe Me? The one who belongs to God hears the words of God; for this reason you do not hear them, because you are not of God."

The Jews answered and said to Him, "Are we not accurate when we say that You are a Samaritan and that you are possessed by a demon?" Jesus answered, "I do not have a demon; but I honor My Father, and you dishonor Me. But I do not pursue My glory; there is One who seeks and judges. Truly, truly, I say to you, if anyone keeps My word he shall never see death."

The Jews said to Him, "Now we know that You are demon-possessed. Abraham and the prophets all died and You say, 'If anyone keeps My word, he shall never taste death.' Surely You are not greater than our father Abraham, who died? The prophets died too; who do You represent Yourself to be?"

Jesus answered, "If I glorify Myself, My glory is nothing. It is My Father who glorifies Me, of whom you say, 'He is our God'; and you have not come to know Him, but I know Him; and if I said that I do not know Him, I would be a liar like you. But I do know Him, and keep His word. Your father Abraham rejoiced to see My day, and he saw it and was glad." The Jews therefore said to Him, "You are not yet fifty years old, and have You seen Abraham?" Jesus said to them, "Truly, truly, I say to you, before Abraham was born, I am." Therefore they picked up stones to throw at Him; but Jesus hid Himself, and went out of the temple.

DAY TWENTY-FIVE 25

FACTS ARE FACTS

John 9:1-35

And as He passed by, He saw a man blind from birth. And His disciples asked Him, saying, "Teacher, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?" Jesus answered, "It was neither that this man sinned, nor his parents; but it was in order that the works of God might be displayed in him. We must work the works of Him who sent Me, as long as it is day; night is coming, when no man can work. While I am in the world, I am the light of the world."

When He had said this, He spit on the ground, and made

clay of the spit, and applied the clay to his eyes, and said to him, "Go, wash in the pool of Siloam." And so he went away and washed, and came back able to see.

The neighbors and those who previously knew him as a beggar, were saying, "Isn't this the man who used to sit and beg?" Others were saying, "It is Him," and others were saying, "No, but he just looks like him." He kept saying, "It is me." Therefore they were saying to him, "How were your eyes opened?" He answered, "The man who is called Jesus made clay, and anointed my eyes, and said to me, 'Go to Siloam, and wash'; so I went away and washed, and I received my sight." And they said to him, "Where is He?" He said, "I do not know."

They brought the man who was formerly blind to the Pharisees. It had been a Sabbath on the day when Jesus made the clay and opened his eyes. The Pharisees also were asking him how he received his sight. And he said to them, "He applied clay to my eyes, and I washed, and I see." So some of the Pharisees were saying, "This man is not from God, because He does not keep the Sabbath." But others were saying, "How can a man who is a sinner perform such signs?" And there was a division among them.

They said to the blind man again, "What do you say about Him, since He opened your eyes?" And he said, "He is a prophet." The Jews did not believe it was true, that he had been blind, and had received sight, until they called the parents of the very one who had received his sight, and questioned them, saying, "Is this your son, who you say was born blind? How is he now able to see?"

Being "put out" of the synagogue had massive religious and social implications. It was probably one of the worst things that could be done to a person in Israel.

His parents answered them and said, "We know that this is our son, and that he was born blind; but how he now sees, we do not know; or who opened his eyes, we do not know. Ask him; he is of age, he shall speak for himself." His parents said this because they were afraid of the Jews; for the Jews had already agreed, that if anyone should confess Him to be Christ, he should be put out of the synagogue. For this reason his parents said, "He is old enough to answer for himself; ask him."

This takes the feel and form of an intense interrogation because of what was at stake. The people and the religious leaders were divided among themselves about who Jesus was.

So they called the man who had been blind a second time, and said to him, "Give glory to God; we know that this man is a sinner." He answered, "Whether or not He is a sinner, I do not know; one thing I do know: I was blind, and now I see." They said to him, "What did He do to you? How did He open your eyes?" He answered them, "I told you already, and you did not listen; why do you want to hear it again? You do not wish to become His

disciples too, do you?” And they discounted him, and said, “You are His follower, but we are disciples of Moses. We know that God has spoken to Moses; but as for this man, we do not know where He is from.”

The man answered and said to them, “Well, this is an amazing thing, that you do not know where He is from, and yet He opened my eyes. We know that God does not hear sinners; but if anyone is God-fearing, and does His will, He hears him. Since the beginning of time it has never been heard that anyone opened the eyes of a person born blind. If this man were not from God, He could do nothing.”

They answered and said to him, “You were born entirely in your sins, and are you teaching us?” And they put him out. Jesus heard that they had put him out; and finding him, He said, “Do you believe in the Son of Man?” He answered and said, “And who is He, Lord, that I may believe in Him?” Jesus said to him, “You have both seen Him, and He is the one who is talking with you.” And he said, “Lord, I believe.” And he worshiped Him.

And Jesus said, “For judgment I came into this world, that those who do not see may see; and that those who see may become blind. The Pharisees who were with Him heard these things, and said to Him, “We are not blind too, are we?” Jesus said to them, “If you were blind, you would have no sin; but since you say, ‘We see,’ your sin remains.”

Being “put out” is equivalent to being shunned or denied access. It would be the ultimate social “casting out.”

DAY TWENTY-SIX

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SIGNS & TROUBLES

Luke 11:14-48

And He was casting out a demon. And it came about that when the demon had gone out, the non-speaking man spoke; and the multitudes were astonished. But some of them said, “He casts out demons by Beelzebul, the ruler of the demons.” And others, to test Him, were demanding a sign from heaven. But He knew their thoughts, and said to them, “Any kingdom divided against itself is overrun; and a house divided against itself falls. And if Satan is divided against himself, how shall his kingdom stand? For you say that I cast out demons by Beelzebul. And if by Beelzebul I cast out demons, by whom do your sons cast them out? Consequently they shall be your judges. But if I cast out demons by the finger of God, then the kingdom of God has come upon you.”

“When a strong man, fully armed, guards his own home-
stead,

Christ (and the rest of the Scriptures) not only acknowledge the existence of Satan but also his involvement in the affairs of men. He appears able to influence people in very significant ways.

*There is much
“foretelling” of what is yet
to come in the Bible. Nations
and peoples will be moved
into specific roles for the
events of the “end of time!”*

*The account of
Jonah and the Ninevites is
found in the book of
Jonah the Prophet.*

*The Scribes and Pharisees
were two religious orders
that had much to lose if Jesus
continued to oppose them and
meddle in their established
system of leadership. This is
why Jesus was so direct (and
sometimes harsh) with them
- by their example they were
leading many people astray.*

*Tithes were percentages
or portions of what the Jews
earned through industry and
commerce. Tithes were given
to demonstrate love for God
and to underwrite the work
of God in the world.*

his possessions are undisturbed. But when someone stronger attacks him and overpowers him, he takes away his reliable, tested armor, and distributes what he has taken in battle. He who is not with Me is against Me; and he who does not gather with Me, scatters. When an unclean spirit goes out of a man, it passes through non-living places seeking rest, and not finding any, it says, ‘I will return to my house from which I came.’ And when it returns, it finds it swept and put in order. Then it goes and takes along seven other spirits more evil than itself, and they go in and live there; and the last state of that man becomes worse than the first.”

And it came about while He said these things, one of the women in the crowd raised her voice, and said to Him, “Blessed is the womb that carried You, and the breasts at which You nursed.” But He said, “On the contrary, blessed are those who hear the word of God, and observe it.”

THIS GENERATION

And as the crowds were increasing, He began to say, “This generation is a wicked generation; it looks for a sign, and yet no sign shall be given to it but the sign of Jonah. For just as Jonah became a sign to the Ninevites, so shall the Son of Man be to this generation. The Queen of the South shall rise up with the men of this generation at the judgment and condemn them, because she came from the ends of the earth to hear the wisdom of Solomon; and behold, something greater than Solomon is here. The men of Nineveh shall stand up with this generation at the judgment and condemn it, because they repented at the preaching of Jonah; and behold, something greater than Jonah is here.

No one, after lighting a lamp, puts it away in a cellar, nor under a basket, but on the lamp stand, in order that those who enter may see the light. The lamp of your body is your eye; when your eye is clear, your whole body is full of light; but when it is bad, your body also is full of darkness. Watch out that the light in you may not be darkness. If your whole body is full of light, with no dark part in it, it shall be completely illuminated, as a lamp shines on you with its rays of light.”

INTENSE LUNCH

After He had spoken, a Pharisee asked Him to have lunch with him; and He went in, and joined Him at the table. And when the Pharisee saw Jesus come to the table, he was surprised that He had not first ceremonially washed before the meal. But the Lord said to him, “You Pharisees clean the outside of the cup and of the platter; but inside you are full of robbery and wickedness. You foolish ones, did not He who made the outside make the inside also? But give what is within as gifts back to God, and then all things are clean for you. But woe to you Pharisees! For you pay tithes of mint and rue and every kind of garden herb, and yet disregard justice and the love of God; but these are the things

In the past, the leaders of the Jews had often persecuted the prophets because they simply did not like what the prophets told them. Apparently they were now involved in building monuments to the very men their predecessors had persecuted and even killed.

you should have done without neglecting the others.

“Woe to you Pharisees! For you love the front seats in the synagogues, and the respectful greetings in the market places. Woe to you! For you are like concealed tombs, and the people who walk over them are unaware of it.” And one of the lawyers said to Him in reply, “Teacher, when You say this, you insult us too.” But He said, “Woe to you lawyers as well! For you weigh men down with burdens hard to bear, while you yourselves will not even touch the loads with one of your fingers. Woe to you! For you build monuments to the prophets, and it was your fathers who killed them. Consequently, you are witnesses and approve the deeds of your fathers; because it was they who killed them, and you build their tombs.”

Luke 11:49-54

“For this reason also the wisdom of God said, ‘I will send to them prophets and apostles, and some of them they will kill and some they will persecute, in order that the blood of all the prophets, shed since the foundation of the world, may be charged against this generation. From the blood of Abel to the blood of Zechariah, who perished between the altar and the house of God; yes, I tell you, it shall be charged against this generation.

“Woe to you lawyers! For you have taken away the key of knowledge; you did not enter in yourselves, and those who were entering you hindered.” And when He left there, the Scribes and the Pharisees began to be very hostile and to question Him closely on many subjects, plotting against Him, to catch Him in something He might say.