

The Tragedy Of The Uncommitted

Matthew 12:38-45

Intro:

- A. **Jesus condemned the Pharisees for attributing His miracles to Satanic power.**
 - 1. "but...by the prince of the devils."
 - 2. "blasphemy against the Holy Ghost shall not be forgiven thee."

 - B. **Certain of these persons requested a sign from Jesus. They seem to say that they had not received sufficient evidence that Jesus was indeed the Messiah.**
 - 1. sign = σημειον = "a sign by which anything is designated, distinguished, or known." V.38
 - 2. They required more information.
- I. Jesus Answers The Scribes And Pharisees.
- A. **The character of sign-seekers. V.39a**
 - 1. They are evil and unfaithful.
 - 2. They remain true to Israel's past.

 - B. **The sign they will see. V.39b**
 - 1. It is in their future.
 - 2. It comes from their past. V.40

 - C. **People in the past responded to the truth of God, even Gentiles.**
 - 1. Nineveh; Jonah, a greater than Jonah. V.41
 - 2. The Queen of Sheba received the wisdom of Solomon, Jesus is greater than Solomon. V.42
- II. Those Who Remain Almost Persuaded May Worsen Their Circumstances.
- A. **The unclean spirit in a man. V.43**
 - 1. It goes out of a man when the man's heart is quickened by truth.
 - 2. When a man's conscience is awakened to the possibility that Jesus may be Messiah.
 - 3. It wanders in the barren places.

 - B. **The unclean spirit returns to (my) house. V.44**

1. He finds it empty, swept, and garnished.
2. This speaks of a person being uncommitted toward the person of Christ.
3. The unclean spirit finds seven other spirits even more wicked. **V.45**
4. They enter in and dwell there.

C. **The worse state of the Pharisees. V.46**

1. Jesus applies the illustration.
2. "and that is the same thing that will happen to all of you who won't believe and blaspheme the Holy Spirit and demand more information."