

Questions for Gospel Harmony #40 & 41

Luke 8.1-3

1. What does Luke mean when he says that these women, and others, “provided for Him from their substance?” (Verses 1-3)

Special Question: Describe the significant role of Mary Magdalene in the life and ministry of Jesus. What is meaningful about Luke mentioning these women as playing an important role in the life of Jesus?

Matthew 12.22-37; Mark 3.19-30; Luke 11.14-23

1. Who accused Jesus of being “out of His mind” and why did they make this accusation? (Mark 3.19-21)

2. Reconcile Luke’s statement that the demon was mute, and Matthew’s statement that the man was deaf and mute. How did the crowd react when they saw this miracle? Who did they suggest that Jesus was, and what did this title mean? (Matthew 12.22-23; Luke 11.14)

3. Who is Beelzebub? Who accused Jesus of being possessed by this entity and working by his power? Who asked Jesus to work “a sign from heaven” and why did they ask for this? (Matthew 12.24; Mark 3.22; Luke 11.15-16)

4. Explain the statement that Jesus “knew their thoughts.” Why does Mark call Jesus’ teaching in the following verses “parables”? (Matthew 12.25; Mark 3.23; Luke 11.17)

5. Explain Jesus’ first argument: That a house divided against itself cannot stand (Matthew 12.25-26; Mark 3.23-26; Luke 11.17-18).

6. Explain Jesus’ second argument: That the “sons” of the Pharisees would judge them for their accusation against Him (Matthew 12.27; Luke 11.19).

7. Explain the phrase “the finger of God.” Explain Jesus’ third argument: That if Jesus cast out demons by the Spirit of God, then the Kingdom of God had come upon His listeners. Explain the phrase: “The Kingdom of God has come upon you” (Matthew 12.28; Luke 11.20).

8. Explain Jesus’ fourth argument: That no one can plunder a strong man’s house unless he first binds the strong man (Matthew 12.29; Mark 3.27; Luke 11.21-22).

9. Explain the statement: “He who is not with Me is against Me, and he who does not gather with Me scatters abroad.” To whom were these words directed? (Matthew 12.30; Luke 11.23)
10. What is “blasphemy against the Spirit”? What does it mean to “speak a word against the Son of Man,” and how is this different from blaspheming the Spirit? Why will “every sin and blasphemy be forgiven” except the blasphemy against the Spirit? Explain the phrases: “**it will not be forgiven him, either in this age or in the age to come**” and “**subject to eternal condemnation.**” What reason does Mark give for Jesus making this comment about the blasphemy against the Holy Spirit? (Matthew 12.31-32; Mark 3.28-29)

Special Question: Do you think it is possible to commit the blasphemy against the Holy Spirit today? Could a Christian commit this sin?

11. Explain the phrases: “Either make the tree good and its fruit good, or else make the tree bad and its fruit bad” and “How can you, being evil, speak good things?” What is an “idle word”? How will our words effect our experience on the Day of Judgment? (Matthew 12.33-37)

Matthew 12.22-37; Mark 3.19-30; Luke 11.14-23

And they went into a house. Then the multitude came together again, so that they could not so much as eat bread. But when His own people *about this*, they went out to lay hold of Him, for they said, "He is out of His mind." Then He was casting out a demon, and it was mute: one was brought to Him who was demon-possessed, blind and mute; and He healed him, so it was, when the demon had gone out, that the blind and mute man both spoke and saw. And all the multitudes marveled, were amazed, and said, "Could this be the Son of David?" Now when the Pharisees, and the scribes who came down from Jerusalem, heard it they said, "This fellow does not cast out demons except by Beelzebub, the ruler of the demons. He has Beelzebub!" Others, testing Him, sought from Him a sign from heaven. But Jesus knew their thoughts, and He called them to Himself and said to them in parables: "How can Satan cast out Satan? Every kingdom divided against itself is brought to desolation, and every city or house divided against itself will not stand. If Satan casts out Satan, he is also divided against himself. How then will his kingdom stand? And if Satan has risen up against himself, and is divided, he cannot stand, but has an end. Because you say I cast out demons by Beelzebub. And if I cast out demons by Beelzebub, by whom do your sons cast them out? Therefore they shall be your judges. But if I cast out demons by the Spirit of God, with the finger of God, surely the kingdom of God has come upon you. When a strong man, fully armed, guards his own palace, his goods are in peace. But when a stronger than he comes upon him and overcomes him, he takes from him all his armor in which he trusted, and divides his spoils. No one can enter a strong man's house and plunder his goods, unless he first binds the strong man. And then he will plunder his house. He who is not with Me is against Me, and he who does not gather with Me scatters abroad. Therefore, assuredly, I say to you, all sins will be forgiven the sons of men, and whatever blasphemies they may utter; but the blasphemy against the Spirit will not be forgiven men. Anyone who speaks a word against the Son of Man, it will be forgiven him; but whoever speaks against the Holy Spirit, it will not be forgiven him, either in this age or in the age to come. But he who blasphemes against the Holy Spirit never has forgiveness, but is subject to eternal condemnation"—because they said, 'He has an unclean spirit.' "Either make the tree good and its fruit good, or else make the tree bad and its fruit bad; for a tree is known by its fruit. Brood of vipers! How can you, being evil, speak good things? For out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaks. A good man out of the good treasure of his heart brings forth good things, and an evil man out of the evil treasure brings forth evil things. But I say to you that for every idle word men may speak, they will give account of it in the day of judgment. For by your words you will be justified, and by your words you will be condemned."