

# Black and White

—Riddles from Q, Week 9—

*Matthew 12:22-32, 43-45/Mark 3:20-35//Luke 11:14-28 (NIV)*

## Matthew

<sup>22</sup> Then they brought him a demon-possessed man who was blind and mute, and Jesus healed him, so that he could both talk and see. <sup>23</sup> All the people were astonished and said, “Could this be the Son of David?”

<sup>24</sup> But when the Pharisees heard this, they said, “It is only by Beelzebul, the prince of demons, that this fellow drives out demons.”

<sup>25</sup> Jesus knew their thoughts and said to them, “Every kingdom divided against itself will be ruined, and every city or household divided against itself will not stand. <sup>26</sup> If Satan drives out Satan, he is divided against himself. How then can his kingdom stand?

<sup>27</sup> And if I drive out demons by Beelzebul, by whom do your people drive them out?

So then, they will be your judges. <sup>28</sup> But if it is by the Spirit of God that I drive out demons, then the kingdom of God has come upon you.

<sup>29</sup> “Or again, how can anyone enter a strong man’s house and carry off his possessions unless he first ties up the strong man? Then he can plunder his house.

## Mark

<sup>20</sup> Then Jesus entered a house, and again a crowd gathered, so that he and his disciples were not even able to eat. <sup>21</sup> When his family heard about this, they went to take charge of him, for they said, “He is out of his mind.”

<sup>22</sup> And the teachers of the law who came down from Jerusalem said, “He is possessed by Beelzebul! By the prince of demons he is driving out demons.”

<sup>23</sup> So Jesus called them over to him and began to speak to them in parables: “How can Satan drive out Satan? <sup>24</sup> If a kingdom is divided against itself, that kingdom cannot stand. <sup>25</sup> If a house is divided against itself, that house cannot stand. <sup>26</sup> And if Satan opposes himself and is divided, he cannot stand; his end has come.

<sup>27</sup> In fact, no one can enter a strong man’s house without first tying him up. Then he can plunder the strong man’s house.

## Luke

<sup>14</sup> Jesus was driving out a demon that was mute. When the demon left, the man who had been mute spoke, and the crowd was amazed. <sup>15</sup> But some of them said, “By Beelzebul, the prince of demons, he is driving out demons.” <sup>16</sup> Others tested him by asking for a sign from heaven.

<sup>17</sup> Jesus knew their thoughts and said to them: “Any kingdom divided against itself will be ruined, and a house divided against itself will fall. <sup>18</sup> If Satan is divided against himself, how can his kingdom stand?

I say this because you claim that I drive out demons by Beelzebul. <sup>19</sup> Now if I drive out demons by Beelzebul, by whom do your followers drive them out?

So then, they will be your judges. <sup>20</sup> But if I drive out demons by the finger of God, then the kingdom of God has come upon you.

<sup>21</sup> “When a strong man, fully armed, guards his own house, his possessions are safe. <sup>22</sup> But when someone stronger attacks and overpowers him, he takes away the armor in which the man trusted and divides up his plunder.

If you would like to analyze these passages visually, you can: (1) highlight in blue material shared exactly in all three gospels (underlining in blue material that is similar but not exact); (2) highlight in yellow material that is shared exactly between Matthew and Mark but is not in Luke (underlining in yellow material that is similar but not exact); (3) highlight in green material that is shared exactly between Mark and Luke but is not in Matthew (underlining in green material that is similar but not exact); (4) highlight in red material that is shared exactly between Matthew and Luke but is not Mark (underlining in red material that is similar but not exact). The red material is Q material!

<sup>30</sup>“Whoever is not with me is against me, and whoever does not gather with me scatters.

<sup>31</sup> And so I tell you, every kind of sin and slander can be forgiven, but blasphemy against the Spirit will not be forgiven. <sup>32</sup> Anyone who speaks a word against the Son of Man will be forgiven, but anyone who speaks against the Holy Spirit will not be forgiven, either in this age or in the age to come.

*(omitted Matt 12:33-42)*

<sup>43</sup>“When an impure spirit comes out of a person, it goes through arid places seeking rest and does not find it. <sup>44</sup> Then it says, ‘I will return to the house I left.’ When it arrives, it finds the house unoccupied, swept clean and put in order. <sup>45</sup> Then it goes and takes with it seven other spirits more wicked than itself, and they go in and live there. And the final condition of that person is worse than the first.

That is how it will be with this wicked generation.”

<sup>28</sup> Truly I tell you, people can be forgiven all their sins and every slander they utter, <sup>29</sup> but whoever blasphemes against the Holy Spirit will never be forgiven; they are guilty of an eternal sin.”

<sup>30</sup> He said this because they were saying, “He has an impure spirit.”

<sup>31</sup> Then Jesus’ mother and brothers arrived. Standing outside, they sent someone in to call him.

<sup>32</sup> A crowd was sitting around him, and they told him, “Your mother and brothers are outside looking for you.”

<sup>33</sup> “Who are my mother and my brothers?” he asked.

<sup>34</sup> Then he looked at those seated in a circle around him and said, “Here are my mother and my brothers!

<sup>35</sup> Whoever does God’s will is my brother and sister and mother.”

<sup>23</sup> “Whoever is not with me is against me, and whoever does not gather with me scatters.

*(For Luke’s version of this, see 12:10)*

<sup>24</sup> “When an impure spirit comes out of a person, it goes through arid places seeking rest and does not find it. Then it says, ‘I will return to the house I left.’

<sup>25</sup> When it arrives, it finds the house swept clean and put in order. <sup>26</sup> Then it goes and takes seven other spirits more wicked than itself, and they go in and live there. And the final condition of that person is worse than the first.”

<sup>27</sup> As Jesus was saying these things, a woman in the crowd called out, “Blessed is the mother who gave you birth and nursed you.”

<sup>28</sup> He replied, “Blessed rather are those who hear the word of God and obey it.”

### The Bottom Line:

\_\_\_\_\_ Jesus, the \_\_\_\_\_ One who \_\_\_\_\_ the \_\_\_\_\_

...by \_\_\_\_\_ on the issue of ultimate \_\_\_\_\_ there is no \_\_\_\_\_.

...by being \_\_\_\_\_ against our \_\_\_\_\_.

...by \_\_\_\_\_ your \_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_.

**Book Cited:** *Demonic Foes* (HarperOne: 2020), by Richard Gallagher.

### **On the “Blasphemy of the Spirit”** (Darrell Bock, *Luke 2.1141-43*)

“Blasphemy of the Spirit is not so much an act of rejection as it is a persistent and decisive rejection of the Spirit’s message and work concerning Jesus. When a person obstinately rejects and fixedly refuses that message or evidence, that person is not forgiven....The concept that unites the three passages is the rejection of allegiance to Jesus, whether because one fears people’s response or one attributes Jesus’ work to Satan....Once the Spirit’s testimony about God’s work through Jesus is permanently refused, then nothing can be forgiven, since God’s plan has been rejected.”