

Explaining Away Jesus' Works

For the fool will speak folly, and his heart will work iniquity, to practice profanity, and to utter error against Yahweh...The ways of the scoundrel are evil. He devises wicked devices to destroy the humble with lying words, – Isaiah 32:6-7

[Matthew 12:22-37, Capernaum] He came into a house. The multitude came together again, so that they could not so much as eat bread. When his friends heard it, they went out to seize him: for they said, "He is insane." Then one possessed by a demon, blind and mute, was brought to him and he healed him, so that the blind and mute man both spoke and saw. All the multitudes were amazed, and said, "Can this be the son of David?" But when the Pharisees and the scribes who came down from Jerusalem heard it, they said, "This man does not cast out demons, except by Beelzebul, the prince of the demons."

Knowing their thoughts, Jesus summoned them 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 divided against himself. How then will his kingdom stand? If I by Beelzebul cast out demons, by whom do your children cast them out? Therefore they will be your judges. But if I by the Spirit of God cast out demons, then the Kingdom of God has come upon you. Or how can one enter into the house

of the strong man, and plunder his goods, unless he first binds the strong man? Then he will plunder his house.

*You offspring of vipers,
how can you, being evil,
speak good things?*

"He who is not with me is against me, and he who doesn't gather with me, scatters. Therefore I tell you, every sin and blasphemy will

be forgiven men, but the blasphemy against the Spirit will not be forgiven men. Whoever speaks a word against the Son of Man, it will be forgiven him; but whoever speaks against the Holy Spirit is guilty of an eternal sin, it will not be forgiven him neither in this age, nor in that which is to come"—because they said, "He has an unclean spirit."

"Either make the tree good, and its fruit good, or make the tree corrupt, and its fruit corrupt; for the tree is known by its fruit. You offspring of vipers, how can you, being evil, speak good things? For out of the abundance of the heart, the mouth speaks. The good man out of his good treasure brings out good things, and the evil man out of his evil treasure brings out evil things. I tell you that every idle word that men 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." [Mark 3:19-30]

1. "by Beelzebul" was common lie against Jesus (see Luke 11). What lies do you believe?

2. How do you know that you have "good treasure" in your heart? What is your fruit?

3. Jesus, I've believed lies people tell against you and my words condemn me, please...

