

## Daniel Perrin – Lesson 3: Controversies – Wednesday July 17: Sandwich Story–Part 1

### 1. Sandwich/Frame story

Text: **Mark 3:22-30** – *And the scribes who came down from Jerusalem said, “He has Beelzebub,” and, “By the ruler of the demons He casts out demons.”*

### 2. People are listening to/trusting Jesus

- a. SUDDENLY, in come the experts / the trained professionals

### 3. The scribes (students of Scripture) made a special trip from Jerusalem just to tell the common people...

- a. ...Jesus is just possessed by Satan (Beelzebub)
  - Several possible meanings for Beelzebub – regardless the origin, it is the chief of the demonic world.
- b. They are saying that Jesus is casting out demons and working miracles BY THE POWER OF SATAN
  - ...when He is INDEED working by the power of the Holy Spirit.

### 4. Jesus loves and cares about the Scribes from Jerusalem just as He loves the common people

- a. FIRST – He tells a 2-part Parable – so the people can make up their minds based on clear teaching
- b. SECOND – He issues a very strong warning – to the Scribes

### 5. What does Jesus say to the people?

- a. **Vs. 23-28** – *So He called them to Himself and said to them in parables: “How can Satan cast out Satan? <sup>24</sup> If a kingdom is divided against itself, that kingdom cannot stand. <sup>25</sup> And if a house is divided against itself, that house cannot stand. <sup>26</sup> And if Satan has risen up against himself, and is divided, he cannot stand, but has an end. <sup>27</sup> 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.*

### b. SEE the Two Sides:

- If Satan is casting out his own workers – His kingdom is divided, weakened, and crumbles.
  - If Satan casts out Satan, Satan loses.
- What’s the other option?
  - If Satan is cast out by Someone mightier, Satan loses.
- EITHER WAY: Jesus wins, Satan loses.
  - LESSON: Analogies / Stories are often helpful in getting people to understand spiritual truths.

### 6. NOW, Jesus issues the warning

- a. **Vs. 28-30** – *“Assuredly, I say to you, all sins will be forgiven the sons of men, and whatever blasphemies they may utter; <sup>29</sup> but he who blasphemes against the Holy Spirit never has forgiveness, but is subject to eternal condemnation” – <sup>30</sup> because they said, “He has an unclean spirit.”*
- b. Even when Jesus speaks about what we call the “Unpardonable Sin,” He does it in the context of assuring us of God’s WILL to forgive sin.
  - AND His POWER to forgive sin.
  - All on condition. We must accept the conditions.
    - Here’s one condition: Accepting the Work of the Holy Spirit
- c. The Scribes have attributed the work of the Holy Spirit to Satan
  - **John 16:8** (called the “Helper” and “Spirit of Truth”) – *And when He has come, He will convict the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment*
  - **John 16:13** – *However, when He, the Spirit of truth, has come, He will guide you into all truth*

- THE RESULT – If you Reject the Work of the Holy Spirit, you don't experience the result of the Holy Spirit's work
  - If you are not led into truth, you will be led into error.
  - If you are not convicted of sin (you'll feel that you're doing just fine *without* confession or repentance)

7. Are YOU listening to the Holy Spirit?

- a. The Holy Spirit prompts you through the study of the Bible and through the thoughts that are in agreement with the Bible.
- b. IF you are worried that maybe you have committed the "Unpardonable Sin," there is Good News
  - People who have grieved away the Holy Spirit by refusing to hear God's voice long enough DON'T CARE if they have committed the unpardonable sin.
- c. Here's some more Good News: Jesus wants to forgive us AND Restore us
  - The only sin God can not forgive is the sin we will not let go of.

8. FINAL LESSON: We need to be careful what we call the work of the Devil