

The Sanhedrin is faced with a dilemma:

Option #1- Acknowledge Jesus for what they were seeing.

Option #2 Reject His claim and find a public explanation to discredit these miracles. They chose Option #2.

The Sanhedrin's explanation of Jesus' miracle was:

But when the Pharisees heard about the miracle, they said, "No wonder he can cast out demons. He gets his power from Satan, the prince of demons."

Matthew 12:24

Jesus gives them 4 reasons why they are wrong:

1. Satan would never divide his own kingdom.

"Any kingdom divided by civil war is doomed. A town or family splintered by feuding will fall apart. 26 And if Satan is casting out Satan, he is divided and fighting against himself. His own kingdom will not survive.

Matthew 12:25,26

2. How do your Exorcists do it?

And if I am empowered by Satan, what about your own exorcists? They cast out demons, too, so they will condemn you for what you have said.

Matthew 12:27

3. If it is God who empowers me then the Messiah has arrived.

But if I am casting out demons by the Spirit of God, then the Kingdom of God has arrived among you.

Matthew 12:28

4. I am stronger than Satan.

For who is powerful enough to enter the house of a strong man like Satan and plunder his goods? Only someone even stronger—someone who could tie him up and then plunder his house.

Matthew 12:29

Jesus then gives them a stern warning for their unbelief:

"So I tell you, every sin and blasphemy can be forgiven—except blasphemy against the Holy Spirit, which will never be forgiven. 32 Anyone who speaks against the Son of Man can be forgiven, but anyone who speaks against the Holy Spirit will never be forgiven, either in this world or in the world to come.

Matthew 12:31,32

Sierra Community Church August 2nd, 2009-Dan Wilvers- Part 3



The Story of the Promise Miracles Never Before Seen Jesus authenticates who He is

When Jesus' family heard what he was doing, they thought he was crazy and went to get him under control.

Mark 3:21

1st Century Religious titles: Pharisees/Scribes-teachers of both the written and oral laws of Moses; very legalistic in their interpretations; actively looking for the Messiah of God; believed in the resurrection of the dead.

Sadducees/Priests: controlled the temple and all the priestly duties; very political, wealthy class, did not believe in the resurrection of the dead.

Rabbi's- a teacher who could be either itinerate or have a local synagogue.

The Sanhedrin: The ruling council of seventy over the affairs of the nation of Israel made up of both Pharisees and Sadducees. Led by the High priest. In Jesus time there were two Caiaphas and Annas.

Old Testament prophecy of the Messiah:

And when he comes, he will open the eyes of the blind and unplug the ears of the deaf. 6 The lame will leap like a deer, and those who cannot speak will sing for joy!

Isaiah 35:5,6

New Testament description of Jesus:

A vast crowd brought to him people who were lame, blind, crippled, those who couldn't speak, and many others. They laid them before Jesus, and he healed them all.

Matthew 15:30

John the Baptist disciples ask Jesus:

"Are you the Messiah we've been expecting, or should we keep looking for someone else?"

Matthew 11:3

"Go back to John and tell him what you have heard and seen—5 the blind see, the lame walk, the lepers are cured, the deaf hear, the dead are raised to life, ...

Matthew 11:4,5

The First Messianic Miracle

Suddenly, a man with leprosy approached him and knelt before him. "Lord," the man said, "if you are willing, you can heal me and make me clean." 3 Jesus reached out and touched him. "I am willing," he said. "Be healed!" And instantly the leprosy disappeared. Matthew 8:2,3

1. The Leper recognized Jesus as more than a mere man.

approached him and knelt before him. "Lord," the man said, vs. 2a

2. The Leper knew Jesus COULD heal him, but would HE?

"if you are willing, you can heal me and make me clean." Vs. 2b

3. Risking defilement Jesus actually touched him to heal him

Jesus reached out and touched him. "I am willing," he said. "Be healed!" And instantly the leprosy disappeared. Vs. 3

Jesus then warns him:

"Don't tell anyone about this. Instead, go to the priest and let him examine you. Take along the offering required in the law of Moses for those who have been healed of leprosy. This will be a public testimony that you have been cleansed." But the man went and spread the word, proclaiming to everyone what had happened. As a result, large crowds soon surrounded Jesus, and he couldn't publicly enter a town anywhere. He had to stay out in the secluded places, but people from everywhere kept coming to him.

Mark 1:44,45

According to the Sanhedrin Messianic movements required a two-tiered investigation:

Example of the Stage of Observation:

One day while Jesus was teaching, some Pharisees and teachers of religious law were sitting nearby. (It seemed that these men showed up from every village in all Galilee and Judea, as well as from Jerusalem.) ...6Now some teachers of the law were sitting there, thinking to themselves, 7"Why does this fellow talk like that? He's blaspheming! Who can forgive sins but God alone?" Luke 5:5-7

Example of the Stage of Interrogation:

Then Jesus went over to their synagogue, 10 where he noticed a man with a deformed hand. The Pharisees asked Jesus, "Does the law permit a person to work by healing on the Sabbath?" (They were hoping he would say yes, so they could bring charges against him.) Matthew 12:9,10

The Second Messianic Miracle

Then a demon-possessed man, who was blind and couldn't speak, was brought to Jesus. He healed the man so that he could both speak and see. Matthew 12:22

Pharisaic Formula for Jewish Exorcism:

1. The Exorcist had to establish communication with the demon

2. The process required the exorcist to get the name of the demon

Then Jesus demanded, "What is your name?" And he replied, "My name is Legion, because there are many of us inside this man." Mark 5:9

3. The Jewish exorcist then would invoke the demon's name in order to cast it out.

"Teacher, I brought my son so you could heal him. He is possessed by an evil spirit that won't let him talk. ... So I asked your disciples to cast out the evil spirit, but they couldn't do it." Mark 9:17,18

Point: If there was no way to establish communication then there was no way to rid the demon; therefore Jewish 1st century tradition taught that the Messiah would be the only one who could effect such an exorcism.

When Jesus saw that the crowd of onlookers was growing, he rebuked the evil spirit. "Listen, you spirit that makes this boy unable to hear and speak," he said. "I command you to come out of this child and never enter him again!" Mark 9:25

The crowd was amazed and asked, "Could it be that Jesus is the Son of David, the Messiah?" Matthew 12:23

Jesus explains to his disciples why they couldn't cast the demon out:

Afterward, when Jesus was alone in the house with his disciples, they asked him, "Why couldn't we cast out that evil spirit?" 29 Jesus replied, "This kind can be cast out only by prayer." Mark 9:28,29