

The Source

I. Slide1 Announce:

- A. Slide2/3 *blank* Family Night Service
- B. Slide4 Baby Dedication - Wayne & Cara Klamp (Jason). Jeremy brother 4.
- C. This Wed Night - I'll be wrapping up Eccl.12 [PC direction. Iftar]
- D. Did you know that if you have a **milk cow** it isn't more considerate to **milk her less**.
The only thing that happens is the **less** that is demanded of her, the **less** milk she provides.
The **more** milk you take the **more** that is produced.
 1. It is also true of the Christian life. *If you only turn to God when in need, you'll miss the real joy that flows from a daily infilling of His Spirit. [Pray, we need u today]*

II. Slide5 Intro: The Source [where did Jesus get His power? His is disputed]

- A. The Pharisees heard the crowds speaking of **Jesus in messianic terms** (v.23 *son of David*), so they attempt to **discredit** His ministry.
 1. In return, Jesus accuses them of **committing an unpardonable sin**.
- B. So far, the Pharisees were willing to use a **man** with a **withered hand** to trap Jesus.
 1. They were totally unconcerned about his personal tragedy **and** his feelings.
Jesus' response, affirming God's valuation of individuals (people more imp than **sheep**), showed their **hardheartedness** for what it was.
 2. In their pursuit of self-righteousness, the **Pharisees** had lost the deep concern for others **that characterizes God**. Their **religious zeal** had led them to become **ungodly persons**.
 - a) With their ungodliness clearly revealed, **in contrast to our Lord's own compassion and love**, the Pharisees had **no choice**. They had to either face their sinfulness and abandon the **legalistic search for righteousness** that had produced it, **or to strike out** against the One who pierced **their pretensions** and revealed **their lack of love**.
They chose to strike out...

III. Slide6 THE FINGER OF GOD (22-29)

- A. (24) **Beelzebub** - a Philistine deity (Baal the prince, **or** ruler of the demons)

1. Beelzebul (Lord of flies) Beelzebub (Lord of house, *better trans here/context*)
 2. **2 Kings 1:1-6** King Ahab died/Ahaziah succeeds/falls thru Lattice/sent messengers to inquire to Baal-Zebub *god of Ekron* to see if he'd recover/ Elijah gives fate/3 groups of 50 (Baal-Zebub was credited with *healing powers*)
 3. **So** the Pharisees *accuse Jesus* under their breath of *Running w/the Devil*^(VH/77)
- B. (28) **By the Spirit of God** - Luke uses *with the finger of God* (Lk.11:20). **By** using this *synonymous term*, Jesus says **He** is in league with **the Holy Spirit of God**.
1. **The finger of God**...in Scripture is *His direct & concrete intervention*.
 - a) The work of creation, even the heavens, are the work of God's fingers (Ps.8:3)
 - b) The tables of the law (Deut.9:10)
 - c) The magicians of Pharaoh called *Moses's miracles*, the finger of God (Ex.8:19)
 - d) On the wall at Belshazzar's feast (Dan.5)
 - e) And of course Jesus writing in the dirt, exposing the hypocrites sins (Jn.8:8)
 - f) And in Lk, Jesus' casts out demons with *the finger of God*. [**The Source**]
- C. (29) Christ's final argument is that He could never cast out the demons *unless* first He had overcome their leader, **Satan**...*which He did in chapter 4*.
1. **Therefore**, one stronger than Satan must be reclaiming His *property*.

IV. Slide7 **GETTING TO THE ROOT OF FRUIT (30-37)**

- A. (31) They claim that Jesus' power comes from **Satan** rather than the **HS**. This blatant denial of the work & power of God constitutes *blasphemy*, & results in their condemnation
- B. **Forgiveness** will be withheld *because* they refuse to acknowledge that Jesus' power comes from the Spirit. **In doing so**, they refuse to believe in *the Forgiver*, the only One who procures forgiveness for them.
- C. (32) Jesus understands how a person might not understand who **He** is, even though His works make His identity clear. **However**, God's work through *the Spirit* is clear and **evident**; one who speaks against **it** does so knowingly. **Such an act prevents forgiveness**.
1. **Eg.** To blaspheme or speak against *the Son of Man* seems to be *to reject the claims of Jesus*. **Paul blasphemed the Son of Man prior to the Damascus**

road experience. He would have *blasphemed the Spirit* had he rejected the Damascus road experience.

D. Slide8a So what is this unpardonable sin?¹

1. It is a sin of the **heart**, not the lips (34,35).
 - a) **The words** from the **lips** are the evidence of the condition of the **heart**; **and evil words** indicate an **evil heart**.
2. Slide8b It is a sin committed in the light of **great evidence**.
 - a) These men had seen Christ's miracles *and yet* hardened their hearts against Him.
3. Slide8c It is the sin of willful, persistent **unbelief** & final rejection of Jesus Christ
 - a) **Adultery** is not unpardonable (eg. woman caught in), **nor** is **murder** (eg. Moses/David). **But** when a person *persists in rejecting Christ and comes to the place where his heart is so calloused he has no concern for his eternal destiny, then* it is **too late**.

E. Slide9 (33) The Pharisees' assessment of Jesus' power reveals their true nature. Like the fruit of a tree, their actions indicate their evil intent.

F. (33-35) **The Tree** is more the issue here, *rather than* the fruit. Because it's the **source** from which the fruit comes.

1. Jesus says look at the fruit of My ministry & see that it's from a Good Tree (Me)

G. Slide10 (36,37) **Words** - *The heart betrays itself thru the mouth. eg. That which is in the well comes up in the bucket.*

H. Slide11 (34) **We can** hide our *bitterness and lack of compassion*. **We can** disguise *hostility* under a cloak of *religiosity*. **We can** even be rigorously **separated** from all sorts of cultural **sins**. **But when our reactions and our words reveal a Pharisee-like contempt for men and women whom God loves, our ungodliness is revealed.**

I. **Pharisees** = **Separate**. The religious **conservatives** of the day.

Sadducees - The religious **liberals**/rationalists of the day.

1. These 2 groups were **serpentine** in their **motives**, **viperish** in their **tempers**, **so** he calls them *brood of vipers*, **or** offspring of snakes, *baby rattlers*.

¹ Wiersbe's Expository Outlines of the NT

- J. (37) **Your words** - Expresses a common teaching among 1st century rabbis that **words**, not simply *deeds*, *vindicate* or *condemn* a person before God.
- K. **Well**, this section has been all about *the source* of Jesus' power.
 1. Let's look at 1 last place, where Jesus proves his case, **5 ways...**

V. Slide12 **5 WITNESSES** (Jn.5:31-47)

- A. Slide13 31 *If I bear witness of Myself, My witness is not true.*
- B. Not that it's false, **but** it wouldn't be valid *as testimony* (needed 2/3, Deut 19:15)
 1. **So how do you prove your case?...**you need **witnesses**. [5 introduced 2 verify His claims]
 2. Imagine **yourself**, as a juror, & **Jesus** on trial as **the defendant**.
 3. **Jesus**, *You can call Your 1st witness to the stand...*
- C. Slide14 **1ST WITNESS, GOD THE FATHER** (32, 37,38)
- D. Slide15 32 *There is **another** who **bears witness** of Me, and I know that the witness which He witnesses of Me is true...37 And **the Father** Himself, who sent Me, has testified of Me. You have neither heard His voice at any time, nor seen His form. 38 But you do not have His word abiding in you, because whom He sent, Him you do not believe.*
 1. **Another** - another of the same kind. [allos] (14:16 send you **another**/H.S.)
 - a) Heteros/eteros - another of a diff kind (eg. Paul speaking of *another gospel* in Gal.1:6,7)
- E. **Bears witness** - Gk. indicates *continual action*. The Father *continues* to testify to the claims of Christ.
 1. **At Jesus Birth** (the Father announced the arrival w/*prophets, angels, & a star*)
 2. **At Jesus Baptism** (the Father testified, *This is my beloved Son...*)
 3. **And later in Jesus' life** (the Father reaffirms His own testimony at: *the Transfiguration, the Crucifixion, the Res, & the Ascension*)
- F. Slide16 **2ND WITNESS, JOHN THE BAPTIST** (33-35)
- G. Slide17 33 *You have sent to John, and he has borne witness to the truth. 34 Yet I do not receive testimony from man, but I say these things that you may be saved. 35 He was the **burning and shining** lamp, and you were willing for a time to rejoice in his light.*
- H. Now John is called to the stand...*aka, the burning & shining lamp*.
 1. **Heat** in the heart; **light** in the mind. [Both, head & heart are needed]

2. **Slide18 Jonathan Edwards from his *Religious Affections***: There must be light in the understanding as well as the fervency of heart, for if the heart has heat without light, there can be nothing divine or heavenly in that heart. **On the other hand**, where there is light without heat, such as stored with notions and speculations but having a cold & unaffected heart, there can be nothing divine in that either.
- I. (35b) **They were willing to listen to John for a time** - **but** then like moths flitting near a light bulb, these Jews had swarmed around John, **until** they got too close to the flame. **Then, 1 by 1, they took flight**. The **light**, they liked...it was the **heat** that drove them away.
- J. **Slide19 3RD WITNESS, JESUS' OWN WORKS** (36)
- K. **Slide20 36** *But I have a greater witness than John's; for the **works** which the Father has given Me to finish, the very **works** that I do, bear witness of **Me** that the Father has sent Me*
- L. The defense now moves from **verbal** to **visual**. **Exhibit A**.
1. He's already turned **Cana well water** into the finest of **aged wines**. **Healed a gov official's son long-distance**. **And restored a paralytic**. & there's more to come...
 - a) **Like...feed 5000, walk on water. heal blind man. raise Lazarus from dead.**
- M. **Slide21 4TH WITNESS, THE SCRIPTURES** (39-44)
- N. **Slide22 39** *You search the Scriptures, for in them you think you have eternal life; and these are they which testify of Me. 40 But you are not willing to come to Me that you may have life. 41 "I do not receive honor from men. 42 But I know you, that you do not have the love of God in you. 43 I have come in My Father's name, and you do not receive Me; if another comes in his own name, him you will receive. 44 How can you believe, who receive honor from one another, and do not seek the honor that comes from the only God?*
- O. **Search** - to investigate. *It corresponds to **the Hebrew technical term** used by the Rabbis for the study of the Scriptures.*
- P. This answers the question...*Is it possible to study the Bible w/o finding spiritual life?*
1. Answer, **yes**. **What's lacking?** Any who are not willing to come to Jesus for **relationship**.
 2. **God's word** was not truly abiding in them & **God's Son** was not the object of their faith.
- Q. **It's easy to get caught up in *the technical, peripheral, or superficial stuff***.
1. **It's easy for a Lawyer** to become enamored w/the intricacies of the law & yet never develop **a heart for justice**.

2. It's easy for a **Doctor** to become swept up in the state-of-the-art medicine & machines & yet never develop a heart of compassion.
3. It's easy for the serious **student of the Scriptures** to become enraptured w/ exegesis instead of **Jesus**, carrying on a love affair w/the printed page rather than w/the person of Christ.
 - a) (Swindoll) *The Bible was given not simply as a legal document or self-help book but as a love letter. And if that letter doesn't draw us irresistibly to Jesus, then its possible that we, like the prosecutorial Jews, do not have His Word abiding in us.*

R. Slide23 5TH WITNESS, **MOSES** (45-47)

S. Slide24 45 *Do not think that I shall accuse you to the Father; there is one who accuses you - Moses, in whom you trust. 46 For if you believed Moses, you would believe Me; for he wrote about Me. 47 But if you do not believe his writings, how will you believe My words?*

T. Jesus now turns the courtroom tables & points His finger at His accusers (a legal technical term to bring charges in court)

1. Jesus pulls His trump card, His ace from the deck of Jewish heroes...**MOSES**.
2. Why Moses? 4 reasons One of the founding fathers of Judaism. He spearheaded the Exodus. He gave them the Law. He was looked up to w/reverence.

U. Slide25 **THE VERDICT** - The defense rests. *As a member of the jury, you must deliberate. You must weigh the evidence.* It's a sobering decision. It's quite literally a matter of **life** or **death** - your life or your death.

V. Communion: