



Week of July 16 - a

Scripture: Mt 12:22-32

Main Idea: Jesus performs a miracle by healing a man who was possessed by a demon (blind and mute). The Pharisees show their hardness of hearts when they find fault in this good deed which they cannot deny happened. They resort to suggesting that he cast this demon out by the power of Satan. Jesus shows them how ridiculous that idea was. This story reminds us that some people will refuse to believe in Jesus (and God) even though they have every reason they need to have faith.

Questions

Preschool: The Pharisees refuse to believe in Jesus’s healing power, even though they saw his miracles. If we have friends that don’t believe in God, should we stop believing so we don’t make our friends mad?

Grade school: Why didn’t they believe, even when they watched it happen? Were they jealous? Were they scared that he was who he said he was and they would lose the power and standing they had as religious leaders?

Teen: If the Pharisees had admitted that Jesus had cast out demons by the Spirit of God they would have to acknowledge a power and authority higher than themselves. They protected themselves by creating another narrative (taking the facts and twisting them). In what ways do people today twist the truth of the Word to fit what they want it to say? Are you ever tempted to do so? How do you guard against it?

Adult: Children may resort to ridicule if they feel insecure or jealous. Do you think this is the reason that the Pharisees accused Jesus of casting out demons by the power of Beelzebul? What about the healing do you think bothered them most? Let’s think about the healed man. How would he feel when he heard them mock Jesus? Do you think he cared by what power he was healed?

PRAYER REQUESTS

PRAY: For God to help us have greater faith and to see him working more in our lives.

July Memory Verse:

Psalm 139:14 (ESV)

¹⁴ I praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made. Wonderful are your works; my soul knows it very well.



Week of July 16 - b

Scripture: Mt 12:33-37

Main Idea: Jesus corrects the Jewish leaders for their hypocrisy. He teaches that what we say is a reflection of what is inside our minds and hearts. If we are good inside, then our words will show that. And the opposite is also true.

Questions

Preschool: If we have good thoughts, will it be easier to have good actions? What about if we have bad thoughts?

Grade school: if you hang out with the wrong people – will you make them better? Or will you start to do what they do? If you spend a lot of time with people who use bad language, will you start to use it too?

Teen: How powerful are words? Is our heart revealed by the words we speak? Do our words show others that God is good, bringing Him glory? Why is it so important to speak cautiously? What is the benefit to ourselves? What is the benefit to others?

Adult: Speech. Sometimes speech can tell much about us; what country we are from, what part of that country, if we are educated (the apostles were accused of being unlearned) or our status. It can definitely define our emotional state. And Jesus says it defines our nature. Have you judged someone based not on what they said but how they said it? One version says “In the day of judgment, men will give an account of every worthless word.” How would you define worthless in this context?

PRAYER REQUESTS

PRAY: For God to help us be careful about what we say, so that our words show our love for him.

July Memory Verse:

Psalm 139:14 (ESV)

¹⁴ I praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made. Wonderful are your works; my soul knows it very well.