



**Change What Does Not Work (Division, Part 1)
(Face the Weaknesses in a Divided Kingdom)**

November 7, 2021

Yearly Summary:

- This year we have been answering the question, “**How do you live in a new world?**” The answers have been very comprehensive. Below, I have listed all of them for you to review.

2021 Sermon Review

1. Allow yourself to be trained
2. Manage your resources
3. Manage your expectations
4. Know the truth
5. Make good investments
6. Understand the God you love
7. Be mature (grow up part 1)
8. Be mature (group up part 2)
9. Be confident and do the work (Don't take shortcuts)
10. Make good decisions
11. Change what does not work (The destructive power of division)
12. Do what does work (The healing and explosive power of unity)

Current Series Summary: Change What Does Not Work

1. **Face the Weaknesses in a Divided Kingdom (Division and strife are contagious)**
2. Face the Dangers of a Divided Government (**When government divides, we all lose**)
3. Embrace the Benefits of Being Thankful (**Thanksgiving 2021**)
4. Embrace the Benefits of Good Thinking and Avoiding Division

**I. The Weakness of a Divided Kingdom
(Fighting the Wrong Fight)
(Matthew 12:25-26, NIV)**

25 Jesus knew their thoughts and said to them, “**Every kingdom** divided against itself will be **ruined**, and **every city or household** divided against itself will not stand. **26 If Satan drives out Satan, he is divided against himself.** How then can his kingdom stand?”

Note: Three Kingdoms Jesus Warned Us Would Be Damaged by Division

1. The National Kingdom (The Nation)
2. The City Kingdom (The local communities)
3. The Household Kingdom (The individual homes)

Summary of Matthew 12:22-29: The Leaders Were Wrestling with How a Man was Healed

- Jesus healed a man earlier and freed him from demon possession. In our culture, this language brings up Hollywood movie images. In movies like the exorcist and others like it, we are convinced that evil spirits possess people and control their behavior. A man is freed from such a bondage and the leaders seek to explain how Jesus accomplished this amazing task.



Main Text: Matthew 12:22–37 (NIV):

**II. The Strength of a United Kingdom
(Fighting the Right Fight)
Matthew 12:22–37 (NIV):**

22 **Then they brought him a demon-possessed man** who was blind and mute, and Jesus healed him, so that he could both talk and see. 23 All the people were astonished and said, “Could this be the Son of David?”

Question: Who were the “they” that brought the man

- A. The man was demon-possessed (v22)
- B. The man was blind and dependent on others
- C. The man was mute and could not speak

Question: Who were the people that brought the man to be healed?

Description of this moment: These people were confident, willing to try anything that could free a man that is un-named in the text. One encounter with Jesus changed everything for this guy. All of his life’s options were now new.

III. The Danger of a Kingdom Divided

1. Division ruins a good kingdom

- 24 But when the Pharisees heard this, they said, “It is only by Beelzebul, the prince of demons, that this fellow drives out demons.” 25 Jesus knew their thoughts and said to them, “**Every kingdom divided against itself will be ruined, and every city or household divided against itself will not stand.**

2. Division is a bad leadership strategy

- 26 If Satan drives out Satan, he is divided against himself. **How then can his kingdom stand?**

IV. The Power of a Kingdom United

1. Unity stops us from being abused and protects our possessions

- 27 And if I drive out demons by Beelzebul, by whom do your people drive them out? So then, they will be your judges. 28 But if it is by the Spirit of God that I drive out demons, then **the kingdom of God has come upon you.** 29 “Or again, **how can anyone enter a strong man’s house and carry off his possessions unless he first ties up the strong man?** Then he can plunder his house.

2. Unity helps you identify your enemies (Are you rejecting God?)

- 30 “**Whoever is not with me is against me,** and whoever does not gather with me scatters.
Note: Be careful not to divide and blaspheme. (Be careful of what you say and reject)



- 31 And so I tell you, **every kind of sin and slander can be forgiven, but blasphemy** against the Spirit will not be forgiven. 32 Anyone who speaks a word against the Son of Man will be forgiven, **but anyone who speaks against the Holy Spirit will not be forgiven, either in this age or in the age to come.**

Conclusion:

V. The Divisive Hypocrisy of the Religious Leaders (What I Painfully See Today)

1. Bad Fruit and Dangerous Words

- 33 “Make a tree good and its fruit will be good, or make a tree bad and its fruit will be bad, for **a tree is recognized by its fruit.** 34 **You brood of vipers, how can you who are evil say anything good? For the mouth speaks what the heart is full of.**

2. Hidden Views and Attitudes (Pride, Greed, Racism, Classism, Chauvinism)

- 35 A good man brings good things out of the good stored up in him, **and an evil man brings evil things out of the evil stored up in him.** 36 But I tell you that everyone will have to give account on the day of judgment for every empty word they have spoken. 37 **For by your words you will be acquitted, and by your words you will be condemned.”**

Next Time: The Dangers of a Divided Government

Big Thought: When the government divides, we all lose. We become a house divided that Jesus said, “will not stand.” It is in our best interest to find ways to get along. This will require compromise and sacrifice on all sides.

Statement: God established nations and kingdoms for our good. We need structure and the combination of our personal gifts to manage the world God has given us.

Read Ahead: Romans 13:1-7