

Treasure Hunt

- What is the characteristic work of the Spirit throughout the Bible?
- How might we “speak against the Holy Spirit”?
- Why does the fruit show the character of the tree?
- What is the origin of the expression “generation [offspring] of vipers”?
- Who besides the Pharisees belong to this offspring?
- Who is the “seed of the woman”?
- What is “idle speech,” and what does God think of it?
- Why will God condemn people just for what they say?

Overview of Matthew 12

Rejection by Pharisees

His True People

1-8 Picking grain on the Sabbath

2 But when the **Pharisees** saw *it*, they said unto him, Behold, thy disciples do that which is not lawful to do upon the sabbath day.

9-14 Healing on the Sabbath

14 Then the **Pharisees** went out, and held a council against him, how they might destroy him.

15-21 Healing great multitudes

18 he shall shew judgment to the **Gentiles**.
21 And in his name shall the **Gentiles** trust.

22-37 Casting out a Demon

24 But when the **Pharisees** heard *it*, they said, This *fellow* doth not cast out devils, but by Beelzebub the prince of the devils.

38-45 Seeking a Sign

38 Then certain of the scribes and of the **Pharisees** answered, saying, Master, we would see a sign from thee.

46-50 His true family

50 For **whosoever shall do the will of my Father** which is in heaven, the same is my brother, and sister, and mother.

Two Chiastic Arguments

25b-30, From the nature of the miracle

<i>A divided kingdom cannot stand</i>	25b-26, Satan's kingdom cannot stand divided	30, Christ's kingdom is not divided
<i>Casting out demons shows God's power</i>	27 Jewish exorcists	28-29 "the kingdom of God is come unto you"

31-37, From the nature of their speech

<i>Its content</i>	31-32, blasphemy against the Holy Spirit	36, idle words
<i>Its source</i>	33, tree and fruit; 34, snakes and their spawn; 35, heart and words	
37, Summary: judged by your speech		

The Convicting Work of the Spirit

Days of Noah

Gen. 6:3 And the LORD said, **My spirit** shall not always strive with man, for that he also *is* flesh: yet his days shall be an hundred and twenty years.

Israel's History

Isa. 63:10 But they rebelled, and **vexed his holy Spirit**: therefore he was turned to be their enemy, *and* he fought against them.

Neh. 9:30 Yet many years didst thou forbear them, and testifiedst against them **by thy spirit** in thy prophets: yet would they not give ear:

Last days

Zech. 12:10 And I will pour upon the house of David, and upon the inhabitants of Jerusalem, the **spirit** of grace and of supplications: and they shall look upon me whom they have pierced, and they shall mourn for him, as one mourneth for *his* only son, and shall be in bitterness for him, as one that is in bitterness for *his* firstborn.

Now

Jn. 16:7 if I go not away, the **Comforter** will not come unto you; but if I depart, I will send him unto you. 8 And when he is come, **he will reprove** the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment:

The Issue Characterizes the Source

Trees:

Matt. 7:16 Ye shall know them by their fruits. Do men gather grapes of thorns, or figs of thistles? 17 Even so every good tree bringeth forth good fruit; but a corrupt tree bringeth forth evil fruit. 18 A good tree cannot bring forth evil fruit, neither *can* a corrupt tree bring forth good fruit.

Gen. 1:11 And God said, Let the earth bring forth grass, the herb yielding seed, *and* the fruit tree yielding fruit after his kind, whose seed *is* in itself,

Snakes:

Matt. 3:7 But when he saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees come to his baptism, he said unto them, O **generation of vipers**, who hath warned you to flee from the wrath to come?

Matt. 23:33 Ye serpents, ye **generation of vipers**, how can ye escape the damnation of hell?

Gen. 3:15 And I will put enmity between thee and the woman, and between **thy seed** and her seed; it shall bruise thy head, and thou shalt bruise his heel.

Rom 16:20 And the God of peace shall bruise Satan under your feet shortly. The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you. Amen.

Mat 13:38 The field is the world; the good seed are the children of the kingdom; but the tares are the **children of the wicked one**;

Jn 8:44 Ye are of *your father the devil*, and the lusts of your father ye will do.

John's Commentary on Genesis 3

The devil's family

1 Jn. 3:8 He that committeth sin is **of the devil** [related to the devil]; for the devil sinneth from the beginning. ...

The two seeds (personal)

... For this purpose **the Son of God** was manifested, that he might destroy the works of **the devil**.

The two seeds (corporate)

1 John 3:9 Whosoever is born of God doth not commit sin; for his seed remaineth in him: and he cannot sin, because he is born of God. 10 In this the **children of God** are manifest, and the **children of the devil**: whosoever doeth not righteousness is not of God, neither he that loveth not his brother.

The devil's family (again)

1 John 3:11 For this is the message that ye heard from the beginning, that we should love one another. 12 Not as Cain, *who* was **of that wicked one** [related to the wicked one], and slew his brother. And wherefore slew he him? Because his own works were evil, and his brother's righteous.

The Importance of Words

Idle Words:

Eph. 5:4 Neither filthiness, nor foolish talking, nor **jesting**, which are not convenient: but rather giving of thanks.

Prov. 26:18 As a mad man who casteth firebrands, arrows, and death, 19 So is the man that deceiveth his neighbour, and saith, **Am not I in sport?**

Guard your speech:

Ps. 34:11 Come, ye children, hearken unto me: I will teach you the fear of the LORD. 12 What man *is he that* desireth life, *and* loveth *many* days, that he may see good? 13 **Keep thy tongue from evil, and thy lips from speaking guile.** 14 Depart from evil, and do good; seek peace, and pursue it.

Prov. 13:2 A man shall eat good **by the fruit of his mouth**: but the soul of the transgressors *shall eat* violence. 3 He that **keepeth his mouth** keepeth his life: *but* he that openeth wide his lips shall have destruction.

Jas. 3:2 For in many things we offend all. If any man **offend not in word**, the same *is* a perfect man, *and* able also to bridle the whole body.