



## SERMON IN REVIEW

February 16, 2020 – Rick Myatt



### HOW TO GET HONEY FROM A ROCK

3rd in a Series on Difficult Sayings of Jesus Titled, "What Did He Say?"

**Passage:** Matthew 12:22-32 - Topic: Satisfaction

This past Sunday, Rick continued his sermon series aimed at understanding some of the more confusing teachings of Jesus Christ. This time we looked at the parable of Jesus casting out a demon, a challenge by the Pharisees, and His brilliant - and at the same time puzzling - response.

Jesus cast a demon out of a man who was also blind and mute, and He also healed the man. The Pharisees wanted to discredit Jesus' miracle, because their positions were threatened by Jesus having power from God to do miracles. So they blurted out the worst accusation they could - accusing Jesus of casting out the demon by the power of the devil himself. Jesus made an unassailable argument: He pointed out that Satan would not cast demons out; that would be working against himself.

Then Rick taught how the Pharisees contradicted their own theological teachings. Jesus pointed out that to rob a strong man, you needed to be stronger than the man (thus to cast out demons, you needed to be stronger than demons, which only God is). They themselves taught that only God's power can cast out demons. Everyone knew the man who was possessed and all saw when the evil spirit left him. The transformation was extreme. They never challenged whether or not the demon was cast out. So to say it was cast out by Satan was in opposition to their own beliefs.

Then He taught about the "unpardonable sin." He explained that to insult the Holy Spirit (who gave Jesus the power to cast out the demon), calling Him evil Himself, was blasphemy (abuse of a spiritual, verbal type) of the Holy Spirit, on an unforgivable level. To call the Holy God evil takes the deepest sort of unrighteousness, and that level indicates an inability to receive salvation through Jesus Christ.

Rick offered some suggestions:

1. Don't fret about whether or not you've committed the "unpardonable sin." You haven't. People who do have never been saved. Anyone who receives Christ as Savior would not commit such spiritual verbal abuse of the Holy Spirit.
2. Learn from this cautionary tale of the Pharisees. They wanted something more than the truths of God. They wanted the satisfaction they thought their positions could provide them, positions of power and prestige.

In conclusion, Rick suggested that we ask ourselves from where our satisfaction is derived. If it is not derived from God, but from something else, that is idolatry. (It is also futile since only God can truly, fully satisfy us.) He taught that we need to trust God to satisfy us, saying, "There is only one thing that can heal that wound," (lack of satisfaction) "and that is knowing God. If we recognize this, if we trust him to satisfy us, then we will be truly filled."