

Questions for Reflection and Discussion

Matthew 12:22-37

Getting Started

Have you ever seen an illusionist? Describe your experience?

Digging In

1. **Read Matthew 12:22-24.** What did Jesus do that astonished the people? (*Son of David* – a reference to the Messiah)
2. How did the Pharisees respond to this healing? (*Beelzebub* – a name for Satan)
3. Why do you think the Pharisees made this accusation?
4. **Read Matthew 12:25-29.** Jesus makes two points to show that their thinking is illogical. What is the first one? (25-26)
5. What is the second one? (27)
6. What is the implication if, in fact, Jesus drives out demons by the Spirit of God?
7. What did he mean by saying *then the kingdom of God has come upon you*? In what way had the kingdom come?
8. **Read Matthew 30-37.** How does Jesus force the issue of allegiance in vv. 30-32?
9. What is the *blasphemy against the Spirit*?
10. What is Jesus' point about a tree and its fruit? (33-34)
11. What is the connection between our words and our hearts?

Getting Personal

- The Pharisees viewed Jesus as a kind of magician. Discuss the various ways that people treat Jesus today. (E.g. Distant Deity, Divine Butler, Cosmic Therapist, Sovereign Lord)
- Jesus says that our words reflect what's in our hearts. If you were to play a tape of your words this past week, what would it reveal about your heart?

