

# **The Kingdom of God Has Arrived**

Matthew 12:22-50

by Don Falkos

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Some people said, "This Jesus expels evil spirits because he's in cahoots with Beelzebub, the ruler of evil spirits."

Jesus responded, "My authority comes from the Spirit of God. I tell you, the Kingdom of God has arrived; it's here among you right now.

"The value of a tree is determined by the quality of its fruit. What is in your heart condemns you.

"You ask for a sign. The only sign I'll give you is the sign of the prophet Jonah. He was in the belly of a fish for three days and nights just as the Son of Man will be in the heart of the earth for three days and nights.

"When the judgment comes, the people of Nineveh will condemn you. They turned to God when they heard the preaching of Jonah. Yet a far greater preacher than Jonah is here among you right now.

"The Queen of Sheba will also condemn you. She traveled from the ends of the earth to listen to Solomon's wisdom. Yet a far greater wisdom than Solomon's is here among you right now.

"When an evil spirit is expelled and that 'house' is swept clean, it needs a new inhabitant. Otherwise the evil spirit may come back bringing others with it. They will repossess, and the 'house' will be worse off than it was before. Watch out, or that's what will happen to this evil generation."

While Jesus was speaking, someone interrupted him saying, "Your mother and brothers are outside, wanting to see you."

Jesus replied, "My mother and brothers are those who do what my Father in heaven wants done."