

UNDERSTANDING THE “ONE STORY” OF SCRIPTURE

Week 18 – JROC - Second Messianic Miracle – Pt. 2

April 18, 2026

READ:

Matt.11:1-6, 11-14 (Luke 16:16)

Matt. 11:20-24

OBSERVATIONS:

The Second Messianic Miracle:

The circumstances of the second Messianic miracle are recorded in Matthew 12:22-37.

Matt. 12:22 – “*Then one was brought to Him who was demon-possessed, blind and mute; and He healed him, so that the blind and mute man both spoke and saw.*”

Why was this a Messianic miracle? We see Jesus encountering many demons throughout the Gospels. Matt. 4:23-24 (read) – He went about preaching the Gospel of the Kingdom (the good news re: the future Kingdom of God on earth with the Messiah Jesus ruling and reigning as King) and healing. And people brought to Him those who were sick and those who were demon-possessed. Jesus demonstrated His ability to bind Satan and his demons! What will occur in the Millennial Kingdom when Jesus will rule and reign? Satan will be bound (Rev. 20:1-3). AND, during the Millennial Kingdom there will be no unclean spirit (Zech. 13:1-2)!!!

The act of casting out demons was not unusual in the Jewish world of that day. The Pharisees, Rabbis, and their followers had the ability to cast out demons. Rabbis dealt with magic per the Talmud (Rabbinic commentary; NOT inspired by God!). Exorcism was thought to be therapeutic. The ancient world believed that sickness was caused by spirits that entered the body. According to Jewish thinking, exorcism required following a specific ritual. Firstly, the one performing the exorcism needed to establish communication with the demon to find out the demon’s name. By the use of that name, he could then cast out the demon. Jesus used this Jewish methodology. In Mark 5, when He is confronted with a demoniac, Jesus asks, “What is your name?” The answer on that occasion was, “My name is Legion of which we are many.” “Legion,” in military terms, equated to 6,000 strong!

Judaism’s methodology was powerless regarding exorcising one kind of demon: the demon who caused the controlled person (the demon’s “host,” so to speak) to be mute/dumb. Therefore, no communication could be established; there was no way of finding out the demon’s name. The Rabbis had taught that when the Messiah came, He would be able to cast out this type of demon.

In Matthew 12:22 we read that Jesus exorcised the demon from the blind and mute man and that man could then see and speak. Matt. 12:23 - ²³ *And all the multitudes were amazed and said, 'Could this be the Son of David?'* "Son of David" was a Messianic title. The Messiah would come from the lineage of David. The masses wondered if Jesus was the Messiah. He was performing the miracles that they had been taught from childhood that only the Messiah could perform. When Jesus cast out other types of demons, questions were not asked of Him. When Jesus cast out the demon from the blind/mute man, the Jewish religious leadership accused Him of casting out the demon by the power of Beelzebub (the ruler of the demons; next to Satan in

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power). Matt. 12:24 – *"Now when the Pharisees heard it they said, "This fellow does not cast out demons except by Beelzebub the ruler of the demons."* The Pharisees rejected Jesus' Messianic claims. And, the Pharisees claimed that Jesus Himself was possessed by "Beelzebub the prince of/the ruler of demons."

How did Jesus respond? (Matt.12:25ff)

- Why would a demon cast out a demon?
- This miracle authenticated Jesus' claims and His message – and the Jewish leadership knew it!
- This miracle proved that Jesus was stronger than Satan rather than subservient to Satan.
- Matt. 12:30-37 - Jesus accused this generation of being guilty of the "unpardonable sin."
 - Deliberate rejection of what they knew to be of God (John 11:48; Acts 4:16). The Jewish leadership attributed a work to Satan which they knew was of God!
 - John 11:45-48 – Lazarus had died. At Mary, Martha, and Lazarus house...when Jesus called Lazarus out from the grave...*many of the Jews who had come to Mary, and had seen the things Jesus did, believed in Him. ⁴⁶ But some of them went away to the Pharisees and told them the things Jesus did. ⁴⁷ Then the chief priests and the Pharisees gathered a council and said, "What shall we do? For this Man works many signs. ⁴⁸ If we let Him alone like this, everyone will believe in Him, and the Romans will come and take away both our place and nation."* Observations.
 - Acts 4:16 – Following Jesus' resurrection and His ascension, re: Peter and John, it was said of them by the Jewish religious leadership, *What shall we do to these men? For, indeed, that a notable miracle has been done through them is evident to all who dwell in Jerusalem, and we cannot deny it.*

Jewish Response

Matt. 12:38 – *"Then some of the scribes and Pharisees answered, saying, "Teacher, we want to see a sign from You."* They asked another sign of Jesus, as if Jesus had done nothing to authenticate His Messiahship. Jesus told them they would receive no more signs except one – "the sign of Jonah the prophet," which was the sign of His resurrection. And this sign levied judgment upon them. They rejected Jesus; they brought upon themselves condemnation. Jesus' resurrection proves once and for all that He is the Messiah.

Matt. 12:40-41 – ⁴⁰ *For as Jonah was three days and three nights in the belly of the great fish, so will the Son of Man be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth. ⁴¹ The men of*

Nineveh will rise up in the judgment with this generation and condemn it, because they+ (Nineveh) repented at the preaching of Jonah (not the Messiah); and indeed a greater than Jonah is here. NOTE: the men of Nineveh were Gentiles who had a lot less light or revelation from God; however, to the light they had, they responded.

The Change in Jesus' Ministry:

Until this event, Jesus and His disciples traveled all over the land of Israel proclaiming His Messiahship. Jesus sent out His disciples two-by-two (Matt. 10:5ff) to proclaim that the Kingdom of heaven was at hand. However, from this point on, Jesus would forbid His disciples to proclaim His Messiahship. When Peter made his great confession in Matthew 16:16, and said, "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God," Jesus instructed the disciples to tell no one that He was the Messiah! It wasn't yet His time to die!

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Following the rejection of Jesus by the leadership, Jesus began to speak in parables for the purpose of obscuring the truth from unbelievers while making it clearer to His disciples (vv. 11-13).

Matt. 13:34 — *"All these things Jesus spoke to the multitude in parables; and without a parable He did not speak to them."* The unpardonable sin was the rejection of His Messiahship – of what the leadership knew to be true! Sufficient light had been given to them. They rejected the light they had!

Veiling the truth from unbelievers was both an act of judgment and an act of mercy. It was judgment as it kept them in the darkness that they loved.

John 3:16-19 - *For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life. ¹⁷For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved.*

¹⁸ *"He who believes in Him is not condemned; but he who does not believe is condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God. ¹⁹And this is the condemnation, that the light has come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil.*

It was mercy if they had already rejected the light. Any exposure to more truth would increase their condemnation (Woe warnings in Matt. 11).