THE MINISTRY OF CHRIST
by GLEN E. TROPP

Our text for this message will be Matthew 12:22-50. One of the most fascinating and thrilling studies that one can make is about the Ministry of our Lord. Much profit can be derived from such a study if we'll submit, surrender, and allow the Spirit of God to teach us the truths that the Lord would have us to know. The Ministry of the Lord was acquainted with misery and opposition. As Christians we can expect the same things. We should study the life of Christ to see how he reacted to the action of those who were against him or opposed to him.

In this section of scripture, let us consider the following:
I. THE SCOFFERS
II. THE SIGN SEEKERS
III. THE SPIRITUAL RELATIONSHIP

I. THE SCOFFERS

Matthew 12:22-37.

In Matthew 12:22 we notice the POSSESSED ONE. "Then was brought unto him one possessed with a devil, blind, and dumb: and he healed him, insomuch that the blind and dumb both spake and saw." His Dilemma was that he was possessed with a devil. He was not able to see or speak. But you also notice in this verse of scripture His Deliverance. Jesus healed Him. He got fixed up.

Then notice verse 23 and you'll see the Amazement and Articulations of the People. "And all the people were amazed and said, Is not this the son of David?" In verse 24 you see the Reaction of the Pharisees, "But when the Pharisees heard it, they said, This fellow doth not cast out devils, but by Beelzebub the prince of the devils." Notice carefully what they said. This was prompted by their sin of unbelief and jealousy.

In verse 25a we notice the perception of the Lord Jesus. "And Jesus knew their thoughts, ..." This teaches the Omniscience of our Lord and His ability to read our hearts. Nothing can be overlooked or obscured by or from Him. He knows all. Some other verses which teach and substantiate this truth are as follows:

JOHN 2:24 "But Jesus did not commit himself unto them; because He knew what was in man."

ACTS 1:24 "And they prayed, and said, Thou, Lord, which knowest the hearts of all men, Shew whether of these two thou hast chosen."

MARK 2:8 "And immediately when Jesus perceived in his spirit that they so reasoned within themselves, he said unto them, Why reason ye these things in your hearts?"

Now as we proceed in this study you'll notice that verses 25-37 deal with his preaching.
First, let us notice the Illuminating Teacher. In verses 25-26 he points out the results of a divided kingdom. "And Jesus knew their thoughts, and said unto them: Every kingdom divided against itself is brought to desolation; and every city or house divided against itself shall not stand: And if Satan cast out Satan, he is divided against himself; how shall then his kingdom stand?" In verse 27 he puts the attention upon them and their works, "And if I by Beelzebub cast out devils, by whom do your children cast them out? therefore they shall be your judges." Christ was not satisfied by showing them the intrinsic absurdity of their argument. He showed them that it might as well be applied to them as to Him. In other works, He said,"Your disciples, taught by you and encouraged by you, pretend to cast out devils must be in league with the Devil, then your disciples have made a covenant with him also. Your own children condemn your argument. Verse 28 points out the nearness of God's Kingdom to them, "But if I cast out devils by the Spirit of God, then the kingdom of God is come unto you."

Then in verse 29 we see the logic that Jesus used, "Or else how can one enter into a strong man's house, and spoil his goods, except he first bind the strong man; and then he will spoil his house."

Now notice the Incontestable Truth as recorded in Matthew 12:30, "He that is not with me is against me; and he that gathered not with me scattereth abroad." This emphatically teaches that there is no neutrality when it comes to the Lord's work. This is also declared in Luke 11:23.

In verse 31-32, you see the Indefensible Sin, "Wherefore I say unto you, All manner of sin and blasphemy shall be forgiven unto men; but the blasphemy against the Holy Ghost shall not be forgiven unto men. And whosoever speaketh a word against the Son of Man, it shall be forgiven him; but whosoever speaketh against the Holy Ghost, it shall not be forgiven him, neither in this world, neither in the world to come." This sin was the sin against the Holy Ghost. It consisted in charging Him with being in league with the Devil. It was accusing Him of working miracles by the aid of the Devil, thus dishonouring the Holy Spirit. This was therefore a matter of ascribing to Satan the work of the Holy Spirit.

In Matthew 12:33-37, you notice the Importance of Words. Verse 33 deals with Sanctified Words, "Either make the tree good, and his fruit good; or else make the tree corrupt, and his fruit corrupt: For the tree is known by his fruit." This means if the tree is good—the fruit will be good. If a life is clean -- the words will be clean. On the other hand, if the tree is corrupt — the fruit will be corrupt. If a life is corrupt the words will be corrupt.

Then you notice the Source of Words as declared in Matthew 12:34, "Generation of vipers, how can ye, being evil, speak good things? For out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaketh." Words come from the heart. Out of the heart the mouth speaks.

Next you see the Speaking of Words as recorded in verse 35, "A good man out of the good treasure of the heart bringeth forth good things: and an evil man out of the evil treasure bringeth forth evil things." The good life will speak good. The evil life will speak evil. The heart is the mainspring of the mouth. Not only the words we say, but the very inflections of the voice we employ reveal the attitude of the soul. We need to hide much of the Word of the Lord in the treasury of our hearts so that we may bring forth pearls and gems of truth when we speak. In this way your conversation will be seasoned with salt, profitable to others, and fit to repeat. Remember that every time you open your mouth, your heart is on parade.

Then in verses 36-37 you notice the Souls Judgment by Words. "But I say unto you, that every idle word that men shall speak—they shall give account thereof in the day of judgment. For by thy words thou shalt be justified, and by thy words thou shalt be condemned."

II. THE SIGN SEEKERS

In verse 38 we note the Request. "Then certain of the scribes and of the Pharisees answered, saying, Master, we would see a sign from thee." We notice two things about them in this verse. They were hopeless -- they just simply would not believe. They were hypocritical—because they called him Master. He was not their Master.

Verse 39 presents the Rebuttal. "But he answered and said unto them, An evil and adulterous generation seeketh after a sign; and there shall no sign be given unto it, but the sign of the prophet Jonas:" Notice carefully what he said about sign seekers. This can also be applied to supernatural sign seekers.

Now in verses 40–42, you notice the Revelation. "For as Jonas was three days and three nights in the whale's belly; so shall the Son of man be three day and three nights in the heart of the earth. The men of Nineveh shall rise in judgment with this generation and shall condemn it: because they repented at the preaching of Jonas; and beheld, a greater than Jonas is here. The queen of the south shall rise up in the judgment with this generation, and shall condemn it: for she came from the uttermost parts of the earth to hear the wisdom of Solomon; and, behold, a greater than Solomon is here." Verse 40 speaks in reference to the material covered in the book of Jonah. Verse 41 shows that even those wicked and ignorant heathen repented. Verse 42 should be studied with I Kings 10:1. This means that she came
NEW MISSION IN LAFAYETTE LOUISIANA

Missionary - Dave Rovell

The Grace Missionary Baptist Church in Houston, Tx. has recently started a Mission Work in Lafayette, Louisiana. Bro. Dave Rovell has accepted the Position of Missionary Pastor. There are 4 families in the mission besides the Missionary and his family. This work is also being co-sponsored by the Central Missionary Baptist Church in Bastrop, Louisiana where Bro. Maxie Haynes is Pastor. We are in need of Prayerful and Financial Support for this work. We believe in co-operative Mission Work. We could rearrange our budget and do this work totally by stopping other Mission Support to other endeavors, but I've always thought it was better for the Church and our work in general to co-operate together. I've seen times when works were done otherwise and the people give you the impression that they were the only ones doing anything for God. God forbid that our Church ever gets to that place, but that we constantly remember that there are others in all places around the world that are carrying on for the Master as well.

Your help will be deeply appreciated. A report will be given regularly to all contributing churches. All monies should be sent to Lafayette Baptist Mission in care of Hudson Cloud - Route 1, Box 134-DH, Duson, Louisiana, 70529. For further information feel free to call Glen Tropp (1-713-442-7137 or 1-713-442-5137) or Hudson Cloud (1-318-873-6801).

The Need Is Great - We do not have a Missionary Baptist Church in Lafayette at all.

RETURN TO LOYALTY

by JOHNNY WILLIAMS

TEXT: JEREMIAH 6:16

INTRODUCTION:
The principles of old were based upon Loyalty. We all need to be:

I. LOYAL TO MORALS - IN LIVING Rom. 1:26-31
   A. Cleanliness
   B. Honesty
   C. Decency

II. LOYAL TO THE MESSAGE - OF CHRIST Acts 24:25
   A. Salvation
   B. Separation
   C. Service

III. LOYAL TO OUR MISSION - WITNESS Matt. 28:19-20
   A. Preach the Gospel
   B. Live the Gospel
   C. Tell about the Gospel

IV. LOYAL TO OUR MASTER - JESUS Philip. 2:5
   A. Exalt Him
   B. Love Him
   C. Pray to Him

GET EXCITED

by JOE BROOKS

TEXT: ROMANS 1:16 ; JOHN 11:25

INTRODUCTION:

A. Many things that I have gotten excited about.
   1. When man first walked on the moon.
   2. The first time a church called me as Pastor.
   3. The first full time church I pastored.

B. Many things in your life that you have gotten excited about.

C. Paul was excited about the Gospel.

D. To be excited means to be roused to activity.
I. I GET EXCITED ABOUT THE PERSONS OF THE GOSPEL.
   A. One person that the gospel speaks about is me.
      1. I get excited because of me.
      2. Not that I am that important, but because of the whosoever of the gospel.
      3. That means me - the gospel is about me.
      4. It tells me that I was lost, that Jesus died for my sins, and that salvation is just for the asking. Romans 1:16
   B. Another and the most important person is Jesus.
      1. I get excited about His birth - The seed of the woman. Gen. 3:15
      2. I get excited about his life - A perfect life - a life lived in perfect harmony with God - a life lived for others.
      3. I get excited about His death - a death for others - a death of agony - a death of love.

II. I GET EXCITED ABOUT THE PROMISES OF THE GOSPEL.
   A. The Promise of Salvation.
      1. John 3:16  3. II Cor. 9:15
      2. Romans 6:23
   B. The Resurrection

III. I GET EXCITED ABOUT THE PLACES OF THE GOSPEL.
   A. Heaven
      1. Because I will be there.
      2. Because of its beauty. John 14:1-4
   B. Hell
      1. Because I will not be there.
      2. Because many are going there and I don't want them to.

FROM SHAME TO FAME
by GENE SMITH

TEXT: JOSHUA 2:1-15 ; HEBREWS 11:31
INTRODUCTION:
   A. Here is a story out of the dateless past that comes before us in a vivid way.
   B. Rahab lived in the house of shame for many years.
      1. She was a harlot.
      2. The visit of the two spies.
      3. She was saved and went from the house of shame to the hall of fame.
      4. Three things that brought about her conversion.

I. SHE WAS CONVINCED BY WORD!
   A. We are told to:
      1. Preach the word. II Tim 4:2
      2. The Word will not return void. Isaiah 55:11
      3. The spies told her about the Lord of Heaven. Joshua 2:9,10,11.
   B. Jesus said to the church:
      1. Preach the Gospel - Mark 16:15

II. SHE WAS CONVICTED BY THE HOLY SPIRIT!
   A. Jesus said:- John 16:8-11
      1. Reprove - convict of sin.
      2. Righteousness
      3. Judgment
   B. Bible Examples:
      1. Acts 2:37 - Pentecost
      3. Acts 26:28 - Agrippa
      4. Rahab

III. SHE WAS CONVERTED BY BLOOD!
   A. Hebrews 9:22
      1. Jesus died on the cross - shed His blood.
      2. Scarlet cord speaks of this sacrifice.
      3. She was converted.
      4. She went from the house of shame to the Hall of Fame.
   B. What He's done for others, He will do for you.

CONCLUSION: You Must:
   B. Receive Jesus as Savior - John 1:11-12
a great distance from a remote country and she would condemn this generation. She had come to hear the wisdom of Solomon but the Jews of that age would not listen to the one much greater than Solomon.

Verse 43-45 of Matthew 12 deals with the Reformation. "When the unclean spirit is gone out of a man, he walketh through dry places, seeking rest, and findeth none. Then he saith, I will return into my house from whence I came out; and when he is come, he findeth it empty, swept, and garnished. Then goeth he, and taketh with himself seven other spirits more wicked than himself, and they enter in and dwell there: and the last state of that man is worse than the first. Even so shall it be also unto this wicked generation." Our Lord declares plainly that the application is to His own generation. Both He and John the Baptist before Him, had carried on a cleansing and purifying ministry. Demons had been cast out and there had been a temporary and superficial acceptance of their message. But the Jewish nation turned its back on the Messiah and the last state of that generation was worse than the first. They had plenty of religion. The Pharisees were certainly swept and garnished. They were so meticulous in their observances that they would not eat an egg that had been laid on the Sabbath. But they were also empty for their hearts were closed to the Saviour.

But there is a wider application of this parable. Nations as well as individuals have had temporary reforms, have cleaned and garnished their house only to leave an empty void and vacant soul.

In the early 1900's everything seemed in such good shape that Dr. Newell Hillis said, "Laws are becoming more just, rulers more humane, music is sweeter and books wiser; homes are happier and the individual heart more just and gentle." He must have been red in the face a few years later when the earth was soaked in the blood of the First World War. We thought we had driven out the Evil Spirit but He returned with seven more demons. As the war went on, we cleaned house again making the world safe for democracy.

Dr. Spencer Leeson said, "While the War lasted, we had our purpose and our absorbing task," but what will happen afterward when exhaustion set in as it did in 1919. When the wicked spirit found the soul empty, he saw his chance. President Woodrow Wilson also had our Lord's parable in mind when he said to Congress in 1919 these words. "Again and again the demon of war has been cast out of the house of the people and the house swept clean by a treaty of peace, only to prepare a time when He would return again with spirits worse than himself. The house must now be given a tenant who will hold it against all such." We swept the house again, garnished it and called it the League of Nations but the devil returned in a demoniac called Hitler and the last state was worse than the first.

Once again, we swept the house and put in the United Nations. We had New Deals, Fair Deals, Square Deals, and Raw Deals and now we have the Great Society, but the soul of Americans is empty. We have turned the clean up and garnishing job over to Science. Back in 1949, at Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Dr. Burchard, Dean of the Humanities, looking ahead, predicted, "The early conquest of space is probable. Large scale biological controls are possible. The ability to control man's thoughts with precision is by no means out of question." Winston Churchill listened and in his speech that night said, regarding thought control, "I shall be very content if my task in this world is done before that happens." He foresaw the Evil Spirit returning to the vacant house with seven more demons.

When Jesus uttered this parable, He had just cast out a demon. He believed there was a personal devil and a dark and sinister world under His control. He was not merely accepting the demonology of His time. Paul wrote that we are up against the unseen power that controls this dark world and spiritual agents from the very headquarters of evil. Today we boast, both scientifically and theologically, that we have gotten rid of the demons. We have swept that superstition out of the house, along with hell and angels and miracles. Dr. Adolf Keller of Switzerland said in effect that the demons we have driven from modern civilization have come back through side doors and back entries. Now we call them complexes, neuroses and obsessions, but they are back. Visit any lunatic asylum and you'll find them. Their hellish music blares from all directions. They look out of the wild eyes of rebels who keep the world in an agony of anarchy.

We have indeed swept out the house these days. We boast that we have gotten rid of old superstitions. Even the Ten Commandments have been tossed out of the window. I read of a family out on a picnic near a watermelon patch. When a boy stole a melon from the patch, his mother said, "Don't do that again, you don't know what those melons have been sprayed with." Such a light attitude toward stealing is typical of how we feel toward all the commandments.

We have also garnished, decorated the house. We have hung up new pictures all over the place. Here is "The New Morality." Yonder is "God is Dead" and over there we read, "The Bible Is God's Word only as it speaks to You." But for all of this our hearts are empty because they have not been possessed by Jesus Christ. The tenement lacks a tenant. Too many are depressed, repressed, and suppressed because they have not been wholly possessed by
Christ until they are obsessed with that magnificent obsession of Pauls -- "To me to live is Christ." The only answer to a demon possessed generation is a Church. They said of our Lord, He is beside himself. They said it of Paul and they will say it of us for if they have called the master of the house Beelzebub, how much more shall they call them of His own household.

One thinks of the religious zealot walking down the street wearing a sign that said, "I'm a fool for Jesus." On his back another sign asked, "Whose fool are you?" Professing themselves to be wise, men become fools. A Christian is a fool for Christ's sake. Either way we are fools. The great need of the hour is for New Testament fools with their facts on fire. The tragedy of today is empty hearts and churches, swept and garnished but not possessed.

Laodicea was swept and garnished, rich, and increased with goods and needing nothing, but empty because Jesus Christ stood knocking outside the door. Anybody could get in but Jesus. One sees a vacant look on so many blank faces in Church on Sunday Morning, vacant because there are so many empty lives back of those faces. That is why song leaders work so hard trying to work up a song that isn't in the heart, why Pastors labor to work up a love for souls for God's House, for the Bible, for deeper truth, a love that just isn't there.

What is down in the well will come up in the bucket and when nothing comes up in the bucket, there is nothing in the well. No matter how well those empty hearts are swept and garnished, unless Jesus Christ fills the vacuum, they are an invitation to the devil to come in and take over. Take over he will; for the heart will not remain without an occupant.

This was the tragedy of Pharisaism. If ever a religious group was swept and garnished, it was the Pharisees, going to God's House, reading the scriptures, praying in public, separated from the world, tithing and seeking to win others. But their empty hearts were never possessed by the Heavenly Guest. There are thousands like them today who join Church, clean up their lives, become religious and respectable, but it is reformation without regeneration. It is the good that is not good enough and our Lord said that our righteousness must exceed that of the Pharisees if we are to enter the Kingdom. So many people are lost today, not because they are bad but because they think they are good. The hardest sinner to convert is a reformed religious sinner swept and garnished but empty. As many as received Him to them He gave power to become the Sons of God, even to them that believe on His name. That is the answer to any empty heart.

III. THE SPIRITUAL RELATIONSHIP

In Matthew 12:46-50 we see 3 truths. They are His Family, Matthew 12:46, "While he yet talked to the people, behold, his mother and his brethren stood without, desiring to speak with him."; The Announcement, Matthew 12:47, "Then one said unto him, Behold, thy mother and thy brethren stand without, desiring to speak with thee."; and The Answer, Matthew 12:48-50, "But he answered and said unto him that held him, Who is my mother? And who are my brethren? And he stretched forth his hand toward his disciples and said, Behold my mother and my brethren. For Whosoever shall do the will of my Father which is in heaven, the same is my brother, and sister, and mother."
PRAY ANYHOW
by D. B. WRIGHT

TEXT: I TIMOTHY 2

INTRODUCTION:
A. The Lord wants us to pray!
   2. Matt. 7:7
B. Prayer is a much needed Ministry.
   1. We need it ourselves!
   2. The lost need our prayers!
   3. The rebellious need our prayers!
   4. Leaders in government need our prayers!
C. Prayer is a ministry that each can perform!
D. Through Prayer there are Limitless Potentials.
E. Prayer is not limited to a proper time or situation.
   1. One does not have to have an audience to pray!
   2. One does not have to arrange an appointment to pray!
   3. There is no waiting line between you and the throne of God!
   4. God’s ears are always open.
   5. One can pray when you feel like it and when you don’t.
   6. One can pray when spiritually cold and when full of fire and Christian Zeal.

I. PRAY WITH CONCERN
A. The example of Jesus when He was about to leave the earth; leaving the disciples in a cold and sinful world.
B. John 17:11  C. John 17:15

II. PRAY WITH COMPASSION.
A. Definition
   1. Webster’s says it means pity, sympathy, empathy, mercy, tenderness and warmheartedness.

2. Thoyer’s Greek Lexicon says it means tender mercies, affections, love, and pity.
B. As Paul for the saints in Rome.
   Romans 1:9-11
C. As Paul for the younger preacher Timothy. II Timothy 1:3-4
D. As Paul for Philemon. Philemon 3-4

III. PRAY WITH CONVICTION
A. That God knows you. John 10:14 - II Timothy 2:19
B. That the Lord cares about you. I Peter 5:7
C. That the Lord hears when you pray!
D. That the Lord desires to bless you.
E. That the Lord is able to meet your needs and more! II Cor. 9:8

IV. PRAY IN CONFIDENCE
A. That the Holy Spirit will Translate or administer your prayers to the Father. Romans 8:26
B. In Faiths Confidence claim God’s Promises:
   1. For the Saved. I Cor. 10:13-Phil. 4:19
   2. For the Lost. Verse 4 of the text.
   3. For the Church.
      a. Matt. 16:18
      b. Acts 2:47

REVIVAL
by PHILIP COOK

TEXT: II TIMOTHY 3:1-5; 4:1,2

INTRODUCTION:
Revival is a greatly needed thing among Christian people. Our text tells us about the wickedness and evil times that shall exist in the last days. They also point out a clear need for powerful preaching of the Word of God. These sinful world conditions ought to strongly impress upon our hearts the need for real, genuine, Holy Ghost-sent revival in our lives. True revival will straighten out many problems, but let us notice four general areas in which revival is greatly needed.

I. IN OUR PULPITS
A. We need preachers who are saved.
B. We need preachers who are called by God.
C. We need preachers who are men.
D. We need preachers who are true to God's Word.
E. We need preachers who are loving.

II. IN OUR LOVE LIFE
A. For the Saviour
1. I John 4:19
2. John 14:15
3. John 14:23
B. For each other
C. For the Church
1. Christ loved the church--so should we (Eph. 5:25).
2. The Church is God's institution.
D. For the Home
1. Eph. 5:25, 33
2. Titus 2:4

III. IN OUR LOYALTY  Prov. 20:6; 28:20
A. To God
B. To our Families (I Tim. 5:8)
C. To our Church (Eph. 3:21)
D. To our Government (Rom. 13:1; I Tim. 2:1, 2)

IV. IN LOOKING FOR JESUS TO COME
A. He is coming again (Acts 1:9-11).
B. We need hope for the life to come.
   (I Cor. 15:19).
C. A Spiritual hope of Christ's return can cleanse us spiritually (I Jn. 3:2, 3).

CONCLUSION:
As the time of Christ's return draws ever closer, the need for real revival should be clearly recognized in our lives. Revival is needed in these four areas that we have considered. We need to pray for God to revive us again, so that we His people may rejoice in Him.

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Short Sermon Outlines

SUBJECT: WHAT THE LORD HAS DONE FOR THE BELIEVER
TEXT: Ephesians 1:1-12
I. ACHIEVED FOR US WHAT WE COULDN'T GET BY OURSELVES.
II. ADMITS US INTO A MOST GLORIOUS PLACE.
III. AIDS US IN TIME OF NEED.
IV. ANSWERS OUR PRAYERS.
V. ASSURES US OF HIS PROMISES.

SUBJECT: WHAT THE LORD EXPECTS FROM THE BELIEVER
TEXT: Philippians 2:12-16
I. ABIDE IN HIM.
II. ACKNOWLEDGE HIM.
III. ABOUND.
IV. AID OTHERS.

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SOUNDOING OUT THE WORD MINISTRIES
GRACE MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH
1833 Aldine Mall Rd. Houston, TX 77099 Glen E. Tropp, Pastor

THE PERSONNEL
Director..................Glen E. Tropp
Treasurer................Ellis Goodwin
Asst. Treasurer.........John Skipper

THE PURPOSE
(1) Sound Out the Gospel with a Prayer that someone, somewhere may hear and be saved.
(2) Sound Out the Word to help Christians take Spiritual Food which is so vital in their Growth Process in Christ.
(3) Serve as a helper in helping others find a Missionary Baptist Church of like faith and order in their area so that they can give God glory in and through her.

THE PROGRAM
MISSION MINISTRY
Support is given to 29 Missionaries, 2 Seminaries, and 1 Youth Camp.

RADIO MINISTRY
KXYZ........................1320AM
7:00PM Each Saturday
Houston, Texas
KPBC..........................1040AM
2:30PM Each Sunday
Dallas, Texas
KHYM..........................1060AM
4:00PM Each Sunday
Gilmer, Texas

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