

“Red Letter Words: Conversion”

Matthew 12:22-37

Ray Cortese, February 1/2, 2014

Reflect on the Text

*Note: Why do we do this first? We always want to start with the Bible itself. The goal is to meditate on the Word and read it with an ear sensitive to the Holy Spirit’s promptings. Look for words or phrases that stand out through logic, repetition, layout, etc.

- Read Matthew 12:22-37. What stood out to you? What did you find interesting and/or important? What was challenging or caused you to have questions?

Reflect on the Sermon

INTRODUCTION

- 1 When were you converted? How did it happen?
- 2 Do you believe that being at church is better than being at the Super Bowl?
- 3 Summarize the *Big Idea* of the sermon in **one phrase or sentence** (Note: this is not the same as listing the main points). In other words, if someone woke you up at 3am on Monday morning and asked, “What was the sermon about on Sunday?” what would you say in the midst of your sleepy haze?

THE DECISION OF CONVERSION

- 4 What was the charge the Pharisees leveled against Jesus, and what was his response?
- 5 Why is it inaccurate to call conversion to Christianity a “leap of faith”? What reasons does the Bible give us to believe?
- 6 Why do we like stories where the marginalized and broken are cheered and cherished?
- 7 Why is there ultimately no neutrality when it comes to one’s stance on Jesus? In your own words, what is “the unforgiveable sin”?

THE EVIDENCE OF CONVERSION

- 8 Explain what Jesus meant when he talked about good and bad trees and good and bad fruit?
- 9 John Bunyan said, “A work of grace in the soul is evident both to him who has it and to those standing by.” What evidences of conversion have you seen in your life? What evidences have you seen in the lives of those around you who have been converted?
- 10 What do you want people to say about you at your funeral? In other words, what do you want to be known for?

THE OPPORTUNITY OF CONVERSION

- 11 What does it mean that Satan is bound? What is “gospel looting”?
- 12 Who’s conversion are you praying for? Who do you need to engage with the gospel?

Final Reflections

- How has your understanding, appreciation, and love for God and the gospel grown as a result of this study?
- In what areas of faith and practice are you feeling convicted by the Holy Spirit to act as a result of this study?