

A House Divided



WARM UP: *Have you ever formed an opinion about someone that you later came to realize was wrong? What did you do about it?*

We often form opinions about people way too quickly and find it difficult to admit that we were wrong even when the facts prove us so for one reason... Pride. Rather than admitting our error and apologizing or changing our opinion, we stubbornly try to justify our actions and end up digging ourselves into a deeper hole that is almost impossible to get out of.

In truth, pride can and will make fools out of all if given a chance. It makes enemies out of those who could have been friends and makes us blind to those whose intentions towards us are anything but good. Maybe this is one of the reasons the religious leaders of Jesus' day were so hell bent on destroying him even when evidence to the contrary stared them in the face at every turn.

READ ABOUT IT: Matt. 12:22-30

1. *After picking a fight with the Pharisees and winning, why did Jesus withdraw from the town and the synagogue? What was he trying to avoid?*
2. *When Jesus leaves that place, the people find Him and bring their sick to him to be healed. Why does Jesus tell them not to reveal their healing to anyone? How well does this work?*
3. *After healing a man who is both blind and mute, the people being to wonder if Jesus could be the Son of David. How did this news go over with the Pharisees?*
4. *How do the Pharisees respond when they learn about this healing? What do they accuse Jesus of?*
5. *How illogical was their argument? If you are in a war, would you attack your own forces and defeat them? Why not?*
6. *If Jesus cast out demons from a man who was possessed, what was it a sign and proof of?*
7. *Is it possible for anyone to be neutral about Jesus? If this is true, why do people try to ride the fence concerning Jesus' identity?*

He who is not with me is against me, and he who does not gather with me scatters.

Matt 12:30.