**A PRESCRIPTION FOR FENCE-SITTERS**

**(Matthew 12:22-32)**

 Are you familiar with the fence-sitting, fence-walking lifestyle? In the passage we will look at today, Jesus addresses those who are accustomed to being atop the fence, those who are hesitant to take a strong stand either for Christ or against Christ. Our text is Matthew 12:22-32. The key verse of the passage is v. 30.

 If you are afflicted with the dread condition of fence-sitting and fence-walking, I am going to give you a prescription, and if you will do as I say, Jesus, the Great Physician will heal you. The prescription is simple, but it will prove to be successful if you follow it.

1. **PAY ATTENTION WHEN JESUS ACTS.**

 Look at Jesus. Watch Him. Observe Him. The author of Hebrews wrote, “. . . let us run with endurance the race that God has set before us. We do this by keeping our eyes on Jesus, on whom our faith depends from start to finish” (Hebrews 12:1-2, NLT).

 Verse 22 of our text tells us about one particular man the people brought to Jesus. This man had three distinct problems. He was demon possessed. He was blind, and he was mute. Jesus did three things for him. Jesus freed him from his possession, gave him sight, and enabled him to speak.

 The townspeople were “amazed” at Jesus (v. 23), but being impressed with Jesus is not a position that impresses Jesus. Jesus is looking for more than that. Jesus isn’t looking for fans who will cheer for Him. He is seeking followers who will go wherever He sends them, do whatever He tells them, and say whatever message He gives them.

 When we watch Jesus change someone’s life, we will want him to change ours, too. We should long for Him to take our life and do with it what we could never do with it on our own.

1. **PAY ATTENTION WHEN JESUS SPEAKS.**

 Jesus knew the criticism and the lies the Pharisees were spreading about Him. Jesus spoke up. He didn’t criticize the Pharisees in return. Instead, He just spoke truth. He refuted their accusations with logic. Basically, Jesus said, “It would not make sense for Satan to fight against himself.”

 Jesus continues speaking truth as He makes an if/then statement. Look at v. 28. Jesus is claiming that the Kingdom of God has come because He is acting under the influence and power of the Spirit of God.

 To whose Kingdom do you belong? Get off the fence. Give your life to Jesus and join up with the Kingdom of God.

 We come to v. 31 which has been a confusing verse for many and has caused needless fear. If you are afraid that you have committed the unpardonable sin, that is strong evidence that you have not. The person who commits this sin is not afraid of judgment. He or she is so far gone that they don’t fear God. The person who blasphemes the Holy Spirit is the one who calls good evil and evil good. Such a person is diametrically opposed to the good purposes of God.

 We must accept Jesus as He is, not as how we wish Him to be. Will you get off the fence and come down on His side? Will you join Team Jesus? Look at what Jesus has done and is doing. Listen to what Jesus has said and is saying.