The Tragedy Of The Uncommitted

Matthew 12:38-45

Intro:

A. Jesus condemned the Pharisees for attributing His miracles to Satanic power.
   1. "but...by the prince of the devils."
   2. "blasphemy against the Holy Ghost shall not be forgiven thee."

B. Certain of these persons requested a sign from Jesus. They seem to say that they had not received sufficient evidence that Jesus was indeed the Messiah.
   1. sign = σημεῖον = "a sign by which anything is designated, distinguished, or known." V.38
   2. They required more information.

I. Jesus Answers The Scribes And Pharisees.

A. The character of sign-seekers. V.39a
   1. They are evil and unfaithful.
   2. They remain true to Israel’s past.

B. The sign they will see. V.39b
   1. It is in their future.
   2. It comes from their past. V.40

C. People in the past responded to the truth of God, even Gentiles.
   1. Nineveh; Jonah, a greater than Jonah. V.41
   2. The Queen of Sheba received the wisdom of Solomon, Jesus is greater than Solomon. V.42

II. Those Who Remain Almost Persuaded May Worsen Their Circumstances.

A. The unclean spirit in a man. V.43
   1. It goes out of a man when the man’s heart is quickened by truth.
   2. When a man’s conscience is awakened to the possibility that Jesus may be Messiah.
   3. It wonders in the barren places.

B. The unclean spirit returns to (my) house. V.44

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1. He finds it empty, swept, and garnished.
2. This speaks of a person being uncommitted toward the person of Christ.
3. The unclean spirit finds seven other spirits even more wicked. V.45
4. They enter in and dwell there.

C. The worse state of the Pharisees. V.46
1. Jesus applies the illustration.
2. "and that is the same thing that will happen to all of you who won't believe and blaspheme the Holy Spirit and demand more information."