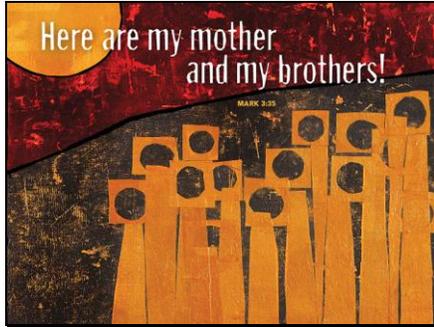


Slide 1



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Slide 2

Blast from the Past

- Last week: we began with clip from 20's generation
- This week: we begin with clip from early 1970's TV
- Flip Wilson playing Geraldine Jones: "The devil made me do it."
- (Audio only with still picture)

Slide 3

Blast from the Past

The YouTube URL:

<https://youtu.be/8woNncaHuls>

Slide 4

Temptation: "The devil made me do it."

- Jesus came to heal the temptations which we face
- Proliferation of Twelve Step groups: a "higher power" needed to heal the powers of temptation in our lives (the "devil")



Slide 5

Temptation: "The devil made me do it."

- Good news! There is healing for our many temptations
- The healing includes the scars from other people and ourselves labeling us as "bad"
- God's forgiveness heals the shame and guilt, too



Slide 6

"Satan casting out Satan"

- Proposal: this is something quite different than falling to temptation to do something bad
- It is the much harder to see
- It is *good* people, those who beat temptation, acting to punish or expel the "bad"



The emphasis in this sermon is on "Satan casting out Satan" as being the sin of good people – namely, people who are good at fighting off temptation to do the typical "bad" things.

Slide 7

"Satan casting out Satan"

- Notice who Jesus is talking to: the Pharisees, the good people
- St. Paul had been a Pharisee (see Phil. 3)
- The problem: Our fight against "Satan" – the evil, the bad, among – is often the very way by which evil is energized
- We think we are the good casting out the bad



This is the elaboration of the main point – illustrations of good people unknowingly playing the "Satan casting out Satan" game:

- Pharisees were folks who excelled at fighting off temptation. They were the upstanding people of their day. Yet they are trying to find blame in Jesus, naming him as Beelzebul, lord of the demons. St. Paul came to see this in himself as Jesus confronted his persecution of Christians.

Slide 8

"Satan casting out Satan"

- But Jesus is trying to help us see that the Good casting out the Bad, punishing wrongdoers, is a systemic evil he names as "Satan casting out Satan"
- The good Pharisees will end up doing that to him
- What's the problem? A house divided – God's human family never coming together as one



The bottom line: as long as our community life is structured by this laying blame, this Satan casting our Satan, we will always be a house divided.

Slide 9

Difference between God and Us

- We fell to the temptation of thinking we know good and evil
- We think in terms of reward and punish – expel, fight the enemy
- God thinks in terms of *healing* the sick or incomplete – God restores through love and forgiveness – even love of "enemy"
- Walking with Jesus means: healing and justice for the left out



Slide 10

**“Satan casting out Satan” Today**

- In our families, schools, workplaces, communities, churches: where is reward-punish thinking dominating healing-restoration thinking?
- Our criminal justice system?
- Is war on drugs working?
- Racism – what will it take to heal the system?
- Can we think healing more than punishing? Not instant transition, but gradually?



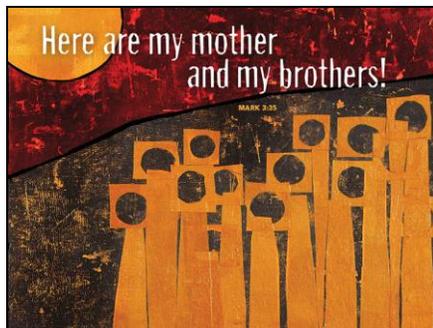
Slide 11

**Good News! Jesus Heals “Satan casting out Satan,” Too**

- Jesus let himself be cast out on the cross by the good people
- God raising him on Easter is the beginning of healing the system of reward-punish, too, that keeps us a house divided
- Best News: Jesus died just as much for the Pharisees, the good people, like St. Paul – like us
- He heals us to be about healing



Slide 12



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