

No Middle Ground  
Matthew 12:22-37

Review:

1. Seeing the work of Christ as the work of Satan indicates profound hardness of heart
2. Our words indicate the true condition of our hearts – whether we are worthy of condemnation
3. There's no middle ground – we are either gathering with Christ or scattering with Satan

Reflect:

1. If someone were to overhear how you speak, would they know you are a follower of Christ?  
How do your words indicate your true loyalties?
2. In what ways can you get off the sidelines and into the fight against evil in your own life? In the broader culture?

Go further: Read Isaiah 5:8-25

1. What are the people doing in verse 8 that God condemns? Why is this activity wrong?
2. What does God say in verse 9 will happen to these people's houses?
3. In verse 10, God says that ten acres of grapevines will yield six gallons of juice, and that when six bushels of seed are planted, only half a bushel of grain will be harvested. What is He saying will happen to the people's prosperity?
4. What are the people doing in verses 11 and 12 that God condemns? Why is this activity wrong?
5. What are these people not regarding or considering?
6. Verses 13-17 describe the way God will punish His people for their sins. Where does verse 13 say the people will go? Why will this happen to them?
7. What will happen to both the honorable men and the multitude?
8. Sheol was the Hebrew word for the place of the dead. What does God say will descend into it?
9. Who does verse 15 say will be humbled?
10. Who does verse 16 say will be exalted?
11. Who does verse 17 say will be fed?
12. On whom does God pronounce woe in verse 18?
13. What do these people say in verse 19? Why would God find this objectionable?
14. What do the people do in verse 20 that God condemns? Why is this behavior so wrong?
15. What sort of people does God condemn in verse 21?
16. What behavior does God condemn in verse 22?
17. What behavior does God condemn in verse 23?
18. What does God say will happen to all these wicked people in verse 24? Why does God say He will condemn them?
19. How does verse 25 describe the way God feels about His people? What does it say He will do to those who are wicked?

Summary and Application:

1. Which of the behaviors that God condemns in Isaiah 5 do you think are commonplace in modern American culture?
2. If God were to point out the reasons He has to be angry with you, what do you think He would include? How might these words or actions discourage other people from following Christ?
3. What changes do you need to make in your own life in order help Jesus gather people to Himself?