

Commentary on the Gospel for Mon, Jan 23rd 2012

Beelzebul was a god of the Canaanites (a people ejected from their land by the Jews of old). The name means 'Baal the Prince, so the Jews interpreted it contemptuously as meaning 'Prince of devils'. The form 'Beelzebub' which occurs in some versions is a further twist and it means 'Prince (or Lord) of the Flies'. The delegation from Jerusalem had no hesitation in identifying the Lord of Life with the Lord of the Flies. That is the sin against the Holy Spirit, to call good evil and evil good. doing.

BD