

THE GOSPEL OF LUKE

A Message of Hope and Fulfillment For Those Longing For God

Nature Abhors A Vacuum

Luke 11: 14-28

Freeing those in bondage and oppression of the enemy of our souls was a hallmark of Jesus' ministry. He came to free the captives; it is at the heart of His mission and the salvation offered in the Kingdom. So it is no surprise that Jesus frequently confronted demonic spirits who held people in the bondage of their evil attributes. The current of opposition is gathering speed, however, as it rushes toward the cross, and this exorcism stirs a sharp rebuttal by the religious leaders. The narrative is filled with innuendo and tangential lessons.

I. The Nature and Work of Demonic Spirits

- A. The affliction belies the nature and type of the demon
- B. Is the attribution of demonic activity merely an ancient way of viewing disease?
- C. Discerning of spirits and the work of deliverance today

II. Clashing Kingdoms and Divided Houses

- A. The accusation
- B. The rebuttal
- C. The power of the coming Kingdom
- D. Choosing sides

III. An Empty House Is An Invitation To Squatters

- A. Freed to do what? Saved unto Whom?
- B. The nature of humans and the short life of spiritual vacuums
- C. A clean house and a filled house are two very different things
- D. The tragic reality of autonomy—there is no real autonomy
- E. What has a grip on you?

IV. Parting Thoughts

- A. Spiritual armor and the devices of the enemy
- B. A golden opportunity to endorse the veneration of Mary...and Jesus soundly rebuked the very notion of its appropriateness
- C. Blessed is the one who hears and obeys the Word of God

Conclusion: Have you invited the Holy Spirit to fill and to control those areas of your life where Jesus has freed you from bondage to sin?

And He was casting out a demon, and it was mute; when the demon had gone out, the mute man spoke; and the crowds were amazed. But some of them said, "He casts out demons by Beelzebul, the ruler of the demons." Others, to test Him, were demanding of Him a sign from heaven. But He knew their thoughts and said to them, "Any kingdom divided against itself is laid waste; and a house divided against itself falls. If Satan also is divided against himself, how will his kingdom stand? For you say that I cast out demons by Beelzebul. And if I by Beelzebul cast out demons, by whom do your sons cast them out? So they will be your judges. But if I cast out demons by the finger of God, then the kingdom of God has come upon you. When a strong man, fully armed, guards his own house, his possessions are undisturbed. But when someone stronger than he attacks him and overpowers him, he takes away from him all his armor on which he had relied and distributes his plunder. He who is not with Me is against Me; and he who does not gather with Me, scatters. "When the unclean spirit goes out of a man, it passes through waterless places seeking rest, and not finding any, it says, 'I will return to my house from which I came.' And when it comes, it finds it swept and put in order.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. How do you recognize demonic activity?
2. Why is it important in every kind of deliverance to surrender fully to the Holy Spirit?
3. Why does self-governance never really work?
4. What is the significance of Jesus' response to the woman who blessed His mother?

Then it goes and takes along seven other spirits more evil than itself, and they go in and live there; and the last state of that man becomes worse than the first." While Jesus was saying these things, one of the women in the crowd raised her voice and said to Him, "Blessed is the womb that bore You and the breasts at which You nursed." But He said, "On the contrary, blessed are those who hear the word of God and observe it."

Luke 11: 14-28 NASB

NOTES

Then they brought him a demon-possessed man who was blind and mute, and Jesus healed him, so that he could both talk and see. All the people were astonished and said, "Could this be the Son of David?" But when the Pharisees heard this, they said, "It is only by Beelzebul, the prince of demons, that this fellow drives out demons." Jesus knew their thoughts and said to them, "Every kingdom divided against itself will be ruined, and every city or household divided against itself will not stand. If Satan drives out Satan, he is divided against himself. How then can his kingdom stand? And if I drive out demons by Beelzebul, by whom do your people drive them out? So then, they will be your judges. But if it is by the Spirit of God that I drive out demons, then the kingdom of God has come upon you. "Or again, how can anyone enter a strong man's house and carry off his possessions unless he first ties up the strong man? Then he can plunder his house. "Whoever is not with me is against me, and whoever does not gather with me scatters.

Matthew 12: 22-30 NIV

Paul R. Martin
Senior Pastor
Alliance Bible Church of McHenry, IL