

Luke 11:14-28 - A Tale of Two Kingdoms

Luk 11:14-20 NIV Jesus was driving out a demon that was ***mute***. When the demon left, the man who had been ***mute spoke***, and the crowd was ***amazed***. 15 But some of them said, "By Beelzebul, the prince of demons, he is driving out demons." 16 Others ***tested*** him by asking for a sign from heaven. 17 Jesus knew their thoughts and said to them: "Any kingdom divided against itself will be ruined, and a house divided against itself will fall. 18 If Satan is divided against himself, ***how can his kingdom stand?*** I say this because you claim that I drive out demons by Beelzebul. 19 Now if I drive out demons by Beelzebul, by whom do your followers drive them out? So then, they will be your judges. 20 But if I drive out demons by the finger of God, then ***the kingdom of God*** has come upon you.

An Amazing Display of the Power of God's Kingdom

Jesus was casting out [*forceful ejection*] the demon

- Same Gk word used when he ***cast*** the money changers out of the temple
- ***Force and Conflict*** - Jesus came to forcefully change something in his life
 - In vs 18 Jesus uses words (attack, overcome, take armor and divide spoil)
- This man had been affected by a demon - and Jesus is setting him ***free***

When the *demon that was mute* had gone out - the mute man was *able to speak*

People Were Amazed (admire or wonder) ~ something wonderful has happened

- People were brought ***face to face*** with an undeniable miracle
- One moment there was a mute man --- the next moment He could speak
- The only thing that had transpired that ***He simply spoke or commanded***

Not Everyone Was Amazed

Some attributed this power as having been done by Beelzebul [Satan]

- We want the benefits - but not willing to acknowledge the source - **Nobody said "put the demon back"**

Others keep seeking a sign (wasn't this one?) - We look for ***just one more*** convincing proof

If they acknowledged Jesus as having the power of God - then they'd have to answer as to why they did not respond to his teaching - it was easier to deny or stall

Contrast of Two Kingdoms (vs 18 and vs 20)

21 "When a ***strong man***, fully armed, guards his own house, his possessions are safe. 22 But when ***someone stronger*** attacks and ***overpowers*** him, he ***takes away the armor*** in which the man trusted and ***divides up his plunder***.

Jesus Describes the Nature of How Satan's Kingdom Works

1) Satan is a Strong Man

- He deceived Adam and Eve to rebel against God (plunging the entire human race into sin)
 - (Gen 3:1)
- Satan moved David to number Israel's army rather than trust God - 70,000 men died
 - (1 Chron 21:1)
- Satan demanded to sift Peter like wheat - Jesus prayed that his faith would not fail
 - (Luke 22:31)
- The devil put into the heart of Judas Iscariot that he should betray Jesus (John 13:2)
- Satan filled Ananias' heart to lie to the Holy Spirit - and he and his wife died (Acts 5:3)
- Our enemy, the devil, is a roaring lion seeking to devour (1 Pet 5:8)
- Only by submitting to GOD and RESISTING the devil will he flee (Jas 4:7)
- He is called the Prince of this world

2) Satan is Fully Armed

- A stronger than him must come (Jesus) and attack him (Luke 11:22)
- Jesus had to give us authority over all the power of the enemy (Luke 10:19)
- This kind goes not out but by prayer and fasting (Mark 9:29)
- We are not ignorant of his **devices** - so he will not gain advantage - unforgiveness
 - (2 Cor 2:11)
- We should not **give place** [a foothold] to him - unresolved anger (Eph 4:26-27)
- We are told to put on the full armor of God so we can stand against **devils schemes**
 - (Eph 6:1)
- We teach truth so people who oppose God can repent and will come to their senses and escape from the trap **[snare]** of the devil, who has taken them captive to do his will
 - (2Ti 2:25-26)

3) Satan Guards his own palace

It seems in the context that Jesus is speaking of man's heart as being Satan's "palace."

- Eph 2:1-3 NIV As for you, you were dead in your transgressions and sins, 2 in which **you used to live** when you followed the ways of this world and of the ruler of the kingdom of the air, **the spirit who is now at work in those who are disobedient**. 3 All of us also lived among them at one time, gratifying the cravings of our flesh and following its desires and thoughts. Like the rest, we were by nature deserving of wrath.

4) His Possessions Are Safe

2Co 4:4 NIV The **god of this age has blinded the minds of unbelievers**, so that they cannot see the light of the gospel that displays the glory of Christ, who is the image of God.

Contrast Satan and Jesus

- **Satan is a Strong Man - But Jesus is someone Stronger**
- **Satan is Fully Armed - Jesus Attacks Him**
- **Satan Guards his own palace - Jesus Overpowers Him**
- **His Possessions Are Safe - Jesus Divides the Spoil**

You Are Faced with 2 Kingdoms - Neutrality Is Impossible

We have been rescued from the dominion of darkness

- Col 1:13 NIV For he has rescued us from the dominion of darkness and brought us into the kingdom of the Son he loves

Distinction between the children of God and those under the control of Satan

- 1Jn 5:19 NIV We know that we are children of God, and that the whole world is under the control of the evil one.

Luke 11:23 "Whoever is not with me is against me, and whoever does not gather with me scatters.

If we are not with Him we are against Him

- We can't remain neutral - We are either WITH Him or AGAINST Him
 - Agnosticism is popular today - He can't be known - takes the route of neutrality
 - Jesus says that Agnosticism is NOT an option

If we are not GATHERING we are SCATTERING

- Marks of a Scatterer
 - Given to Gossip which separates friends
 - Wound the conscience of another by taking liberties that offend others
 - We set a bad example - others follow - or indict the church as full of hypocrites
 - We are uninvolved in the work of the kingdom
 - We are unmoved by the Spirit of God
 - We are uninterested in the Word of God
 - We are unconcerned about the plight of the lost

There Are 2 Kingdoms - Free But Not Filled Leaves Us In a Worse Condition

Luke 11:24 "When an impure spirit comes out of a person, it goes through arid places seeking rest and does not find it. Then it says, 'I will return to the house I left.' 25 When it arrives, it finds the house swept clean and put in order. 26 Then it goes and takes seven other spirits more wicked than itself, and they go in and live there. And the final condition of that person is worse than the first."

Parallel Verse --- Matthew 12:43-45 ESV(45) Then it goes and brings with it seven other spirits more evil than itself, and they enter and dwell there, and the last state of that person is worse than the first. **So also will it be with this evil generation."**

- In some sense this can speak of actual demon possession (Mary Magdalen - Mk 16:9)
- In another sense he speaks of the general condition of man who has been SWEPT - but not FILLED - **so also will it be with this evil generation**
 - He is not saying the entire generation is demon possessed - but in a worse condition

2 Peter 2:20-22 ESV For if, after they have escaped the defilements of the world through the knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, they are again entangled in them and overcome, the last state has become worse for them than the first. (21) For it would have been better for them never to have known the way of righteousness than after knowing it to turn back from the holy commandment delivered to them. (22) What the true proverb says has happened to them: "The dog returns to its own vomit, and the sow, after washing herself, returns to wallow in the mire."

The desire to be free but not filled - the benefits without the cost

- People want to be rid of the effects of Satan, but do not want to take on what Christ offers in its place
- We want happy **marriages** - but we won't build it on His principles
- We want to do well **financially** - but we don't want to treat our money the way He says
- We want a successful **life** - but we fail to realize that success is tied obedience to the word of God (see Psalm 1)
- We want our **children** to raise up and be blessed - but we use principles of psychology and worldly philosophy to train them rather than the nurture and admonition of the LORD
- We want healthy **relationships** - but fail to put into practice simple things like (forgiveness, love, kindness and servanthood)

3) Blessing is not a matter of chance it is a matter of pursuit

27 As Jesus was saying these things, a woman in the crowd called out, "Blessed is the mother who gave you birth and nursed you." 28 He replied, "Blessed rather are those who hear the word of God and obey it."

Summary

- Jesus brought a clash of two kingdoms and showed the superiority of God's Kingdom
- The people would not acknowledge the source of the power
- Jesus taught the difference between the two kingdoms
- He showed that we cannot be neutral
- If we do not respond to the kingdom of God we will be left open to enemy attack and will end up in a worse condition