

Luke 11 pt. 4 vs. 14-28 (NASB)

¹⁴ 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. ¹⁵ But some of them said, "He casts out demons by Beelzebul, the ruler of the demons."¹⁶ Others, to test *Him*, were demanding of Him a sign from heaven. ¹⁷ But He knew their thoughts and said to them, "Any kingdom divided against itself is laid waste; and a house *divided* against itself falls. ¹⁸ If Satan also is divided against himself, how will his kingdom stand? For you say that I cast out demons by Beelzebul. ¹⁹ And if I by Beelzebul cast out demons, by whom do your sons cast them out? So they will be your judges. ²⁰ But if I cast out demons by the finger of God, then the kingdom of God has come upon you.²¹ When a strong *man*, fully armed, guards his own house, his possessions are undisturbed. ²² 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. ²³ He who is not with Me is against Me; and he who does not gather with Me, scatters.

²⁴ "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.' ²⁵ And when it comes, it finds it swept and put in order. ²⁶ 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."

²⁷ 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."²⁸ But He said, "On the contrary, blessed are those who hear the word of God and observe it."

1. **Ch. 11** opens with the model for prayer, the example of persistence and the promise to those who ask, seek and knock
2. Beginning in Vs. 14, we see opposition to Jesus as He journeys to Jerusalem
 - a. Controversy & Clarity
 - b. Controversy over the source of His power & miracles
 - c. Clarity with truth about who He is

I. Controversy

1. **Jesus casts out a demon from a man who was mute**
 - a. Matthew 12 tells us he was also blind

2. **This is typical for our Lord**
 - d. He went around doing good...
 - i. He's teaching people
 - ii. Healing people
 - iii. Delivering people
 - iv. Comforting people
 - v. Feeding the hungry

 - vi. **His focus, His life & ministry is people**

3. 3 different responses happen as Jesus heals this man from a demon
 - a. **1st, some marveled (were in awe)**
 - i. Maybe it was their first time seeing Jesus do a miracle
 - ii. It's also possible that Jewish exorcists tried to cast out this demon and failed, so they marveled at Jesus' power
 - iii. To be in awe may be a form of reverence for the Lord

 - b. **2nd, the religious need to find reasons for these miracles**
 - i. They can't dispute His power because these are known people who have real problems & some have been like this for years
 1. So they attribute Jesus' miracles to Beelzebub, the prince of demons.
 - ii. Suggesting that He's using demonic power for His miracles
 - iii. The name Beelzebub refers to the Philistine god Ekron (2 Kings 1:2-3, 6, 16). – Ruler of demons
 - iv. The name was reference of Satan.

v. **It's astonishing that the religious make this claim**

1. Having studied scripture, they should know better

vi. **Even the man who was born blind said this:**

vii. **John 9:30** The man answered, "Now that is remarkable! ... ³¹ We know that God does not listen to sinners. He listens to the godly person who does his will. ³² Nobody has ever heard of opening the eyes of a man born blind. ³³ If this man were not from God, he could do nothing."

c. **The 3rd have a wait-and-see approach.**

- i. They're not persuaded that Jesus is using demonic power
- ii. They want more proof through more signs from heaven.
- iii. They're intrigued with the supernatural

4. **The same 3 responses are true today**

a. Some are in awe of Christ and respect Him from a distance

- i. They confess that He's a good teacher
- ii. He's a good religious leader
- iii. A great humble example for us to follow

- iv. But they don't take steps to follow the Lord
- v. Their life remains the same

b. Others outright reject Jesus and try to discredit Him

c. Others testing Him were asking to see more signs

5. **These 3 perspectives will not work**

6. Respecting Jesus from a distance, attributing His works to Satan or testing Him by asking for more signs is ultimately doing one thing, **Rejecting Him**

II. Clarity

1. To the accusation about Him using the power of Beelzebul...
 - a. Jesus says, A kingdom divided against itself cannot stand

A. This truth applies across the board

B. It's important for us to understand

- i. A divided kingdom cannot stand
- ii. A divided home cannot stand
- iii. A divided individual will not succeed

iv. Division brings destruction

2. If Satan casts out Satan, his kingdom cannot stand
3. If Jesus is casting out Satan by Satan's power, by whom do your sons cast them out?
 - a. The 12 cast out many demons and healed many people
 - b. The 12 received their power from Jesus
 - c. So the argument that Jesus is using demonic power is void
4. From the beginning division has been one of Satan's biggest tools
 - a. He targets to divide people – divide & conquer
 - i. In order to divide kingdoms and nations, he begins with the nucleus
 1. The family unit
 - a. Husbands & wives
 - b. Parents with their children
 - c. The individual
 - b. Targeting the family is definitely working with more than ½ of marriages ending in divorce
 - c. More children are out of sync in their homes and disconnected

- d. It really begins with the individual who is divided in his own heart
 - e. Because of sin, we are all prone to internal division
 - f. King David recognized this internal division and cried out
 - i. **Psalm 86:11** Teach me your way, O LORD, that I may walk in your truth; unite my heart to fear your name.
 - ii. Notice his prayer is not change me or fix me
 - iii. His prayer is teach me Your way O LORD, that I may walk in Your truth
 - iv. Unity seems to be they byproduct of learning to walk with God
 - v. Without unity of heart and unity in our homes, everything falls apart
 - vi. In a Peanuts cartoon Lucy demanded that Linus change TV channels, threatening him with her fist if he didn't. "What makes you think you can walk right in here and take over?" asks Linus.
 "These five fingers," says Lucy. "Individually they're nothing but when I curl them together like this into a single unit, they form a weapon that is terrible to behold."
 "Which channel do you want?" asks Linus. Turning away, he looks at his fingers and says, "Why can't you guys get organized like that?"
5. **Vs. 20** But if I cast out demons by the finger of God, then the kingdom of God has come upon you.
 6. By virtue of these miracles, God's kingdom has come
 7. As a nation, the Jewish people were waiting for The Kingdom of God
 8. For God to send a great deliverer who will help them defeat their enemies

9. What they failed to realize was that God's kingdom had come
 - a. Jesus is here and 2 essential enemies will be dealt with
 - i. Sin will be dealt with
 - ii. Satan will be dealt with
 - b. The one who's known as the strong man

10. **The good news is that Jesus is the stronger one**

- a. Satan is known as:
- b. the prince of the power of the air **Eph 2:2**
- c. **John 12:31** the ruler of this world
- d. **2 Cor 4:4** the god of this world
- e. He's had this title since Adam sinned in the garden
 - i. This world is his domain
 - ii. All who are not born again are under his dominion
- f. 'If you want to go in and get the property of someone, you have to overpower the strong man. You've got to be stronger than he is to get his property'
- g. So Jesus is saying that He is stronger than the god of this world
- h. Not just in the fact that Jesus can annihilate Satan with one word
- i. Choosing rather to demonstrate how goodness overcomes evil –
 - i. How love overcomes hatred –
 - ii. How forgiveness overcomes condemnation
 - iii. How mercy triumphs over judgement
- j. **I.E.** His ability to silence the voice of the accuser against believers

- i. Believers get caught up in sin and the devil whispers all kinds of lies
 - 1. You'll never amount to anything
 - 2. You blew it again
 - 3. How many times will you ask forgiveness
 - a. God is not happy with you...
- ii. So Satan is known as the accuser of the brethren
- iii. **Rev 12:10** Then I heard a loud voice in heaven, saying, "Now the salvation, and the power, and the kingdom of our God and the authority of His Christ have come, for the accuser of our brethren has been thrown down, he who accuses them before our God day and night.¹¹ And they overcame him because of the blood of the Lamb and because of the word of their testimony, and they did not love their life even when faced with death.
- iv. On the Cross, one of the things that Jesus does for us is takes the actual sin on Himself
- v. Although Satan still whispers in our ears, we can remind him that there is no condemnation to those who are in Christ...
- vi. Nothing shall separate us from the love of God in Christ...
- k. This is one example of how Jesus is stronger

i. There's no comparison

- 11. **Jesus then draws a line in the sand...**
- 12. **Vs. 23 He who is not with Me is against Me., and he who does not gather with Me scatters**
- 13. Again, being in awe of His glory is not enough, asking for more signs will not cure the unbelief
- 14. The nation Israel saw miracle after miracle and their hearts did not believe

15. **One follows Christ because he chooses to do so**
 - a. Each person has a free will to make that choice
 - b. To hold Jesus in high esteem is not enough
 - c. To respect Him from a distance will not help you
 - d. One must choose to follow Christ, otherwise, you are against Him

16. Someone may say, I don't really need religion to do better
 - a. I can follow the 12 steps of AA and get better
 - b. I can read self-help books and improve
 - c. I can eat better, go to the gym and live a healthier lifestyle

 - d. 'I can deliver myself from my own demons'

 - e. Weather you get yourself free or others pray for you...

17. Jesus anticipates this type of logic, He says; **When an unclean spirit goes out of a man, he goes through dry places, seeking rest; and finding none, he says, 'I will return to my house from which I came' And when he comes, he finds it swept and put in order. Then he goes and takes with him seven other spirits more wicked than himself. And they enter and dwell there; and the last state of that man is worse than the first**

18. Those looking for deliverance (freedom) for the sake of better living and not following Christ will eventually find themselves in a worse place

19. Consider well known celebrities who have gone to rehab, many end up worse

20. Because that habit, that addiction is removed and a vacancy is there

21. If you have been delivered from something, you need to follow Christ and be filled with His Holy Spirit otherwise what plagued you will be back

22. Your heart (home) must be filled

23. Isn't it better to be filled with God's true light than with darkness?
24. Someone from the crowd raised her voice and said, Blessed is the womb that bore You
 - a. It's meant as a compliment for the graceful words Jesus spoke
 - b. As if there is a special blessing in being related to Jesus
25. The idea is not how important are those closest to Jesus by family relation
26. The kind of family you were born into does not affect how close you can be to God
27. His family learned that being the mother or brothers of the Lord Jesus meant nothing spiritually
 - a. Like being a son of Abraham meant nothing if they didn't have the faith of Abraham
28. **Important lesson for us**
 - a. My parent's faith will not help me one bit in my relationship with God
 - b. Their lack of faith should not prevent me from knowing God
29. This is a choice each person must make
30. Abraham believed God and it was accounted to him as righteousness
 - a. He believed God
 - b. He obeyed His voice
31. **On the contrary, blessed are those who hear the word of God and observe it."**
32. It's an option for anyone who wants to follow after God

33. We have the right to choose

34. **Deut 30:19** I call heaven and earth to witness against you today, that I have set before you life and death, the blessing and the curse. So choose life in order that you may live