

Matthew 12:43-45, Luke 11:24-26 – Pharisees Reproved, Part 2

Introduction

1. Jesus drew a line in the sand for everyone and laid out two categories: those who are aligned with Him, and everyone else (**Luke 11:23**)
2. The Scribes and Pharisees, and the wicked generation judged the Messiah on one question: Are you with Christ? – the story of your life...
3. Are you with Christ? Everything is passing away... (**1 John 2:17**)
4. What does it mean to be with Christ?

Main Idea: Demons can inhabit lost persons, causing confusion and chaos. Those without Christ can Reformed moral and even religious behavior, and the pursuit of a cleaned up life apart may look outwardly set in order, but in reality, is not salvation. The righteous condemnation of God is still upon the life that looks clean, but has denied the Son of God.

The Demon (Matthew 12:43-45, Luke 11:24-26)

1. The Lord brings us into a realm we would not know otherwise
2. Jesus speaks of a demon that leaves its house – a person's body
3. Demons exist – Jesus witnessed their fall, assigned them to this earthly realm, controls their activity
4. Demons know their destiny lies in the hands of Jesus; they know Christ (**Matthew 8:28-29, Mark 1:23-26**)
5. The Pharisees do not believe Jesus is the Son of God and attribute His work to Satan, while the demons do believe He is the Son
6. Demons can inhabit people; possess them
7. Fallen angels have individuality, personality, & moral ability
8. Just as humans have the capacity to commit greater and lesser sins, so do demons; the demon brought back 7 others more wicked
9. Not every unbeliever is demonized – the demon left this person and they were still not redeemed, even though the house was empty
10. *If you have Christ, you are born again, meaning any demonic activity will be external to us; we can be harassed, not possessed*
 - a. Demons cannot ultimately harm us (**1 John 5:18, 1 Cor 3:16**)
 - b. Christians *house* the Spirit of God within, not demons
11. Jesus healed, performed miracles to feed, and delivered the crowds from demonic possession – this does not mean they received Him as Savior
12. Demons have some level of miserable comfort inhabiting humans
 - a. The demon passes through waterless places (a desert, barren land)
 - b. Demons are restless and seek a habitation, even swine
 - c. Demonic possession creates madness in the mind; confusion, chaos
13. The manifestations of demonic activity are manifold in our world: abortion, LGBTQ+, transgenderism, false teaching (doctrine of demons)
 - a. This demon returns with 7 companions = they are concerted in their efforts to confuse and cause chaos (worldwide wickedness today)

The Lost Human (Matthew 12:43-45, Luke 11:24-26)

1. His body is considered the demon's house; the life of someone who exists in the domain of Satan; each of us before Christ (**Eph 2:1-3**)

2. The person is able to clean himself up after the demon leaves
3. The person is then unoccupied (empty) until the demon returns w/others
4. The person's life improved without the demon there; a reformed life
 - a. The absence of the Spirit resulted in a put-together life
 - b. A moral life is not salvation
 - c. One could have a moral life, cleaned up and still be without Jesus
 - d. The cleanliness of the house is temporary
 - e. Unless regeneration by the Spirit occurs, the cleanness really does not matter, for ultimately that person will face judgment
 - f. Our true need: Not moral reformation, but spiritual transformation; not reformation, but regeneration
 - g. Real freedom, cleanness, holiness is found only in Jesus Christ
5. The person is not saved just because the demon left; he may be externally clean, be morally upright and have a life devoid of Christ
 - a. Jesus accuses the Pharisees of this very thing (**Matthew 23:25-26**)
6. Familiarity with Jesus and things of God can be dangerous if there is a cold, dead heart without true faith in Jesus
7. Salvation is where the Holy Spirit takes up residence within the soul of an individual; God now owns your life
8. The real issue is not whether you are moral, but born anew – Does Christ *possess* you? (**Romans 8:11**)
9. Great deception within the church: Morality EQUALS Salvation – No!
 - a. Immorality should not characterize the people of God
 - b. Morality does not mean one is a child of God
 - c. Do not equate religious, evangelical leanings with Salvation
 - d. The religious and non-religious can be moral, and without Christ
10. Jesus spoke to the religious of the land in our text – they were committed to the Law of God without a heart for God (**Matthew 23:27**)
11. How do you know the Lord occupies your heart?
 - a. Examine yourselves (**2 Corinthians 13:5**)
 - b. Do you love the Lord (**1 Corinthians 16:22**)
 - c. Do not mistake a put-together, swept up life as love for God
 - d. Do you love God? The words of Christ? The commands of Christ? Is Christ your life, your hope, your all (**Philippians 1:21**)

Application

1. Morality is morality, not saving faith; we cannot contribute anything to our salvation – we are saved by grace through faith apart from works
 - a. Good deeds do not save, but are evidence that we are saved
 - b. Do not mistake kindness and goodness and law keeping with salvation, it is just morality
2. Parents – are you trying to reform your children to be good, obedient, moral – but that is it?
 - a. A person is no better off unless they are regenerate; aim higher for our kids to know the Lord and His redemption
3. Never mistake moral reformation with spiritual regeneration
4. Never mistake a reformed life through human effort with a transformed life created by the power of God