

Two Kingdoms

Introduction

If you have your Bible... Our goal this morning, and every morning is to dig into God's word together. My hope and prayer is that you will be able to do this for yourself. All I am going to do... is go through the passage and dwell on some areas that we should consider. The pulpit is an example of how to study the scriptures for yourself.

The Cow Chewing Cud

I am just some guy who has opened God's word and has asked, "what does this have to teach us? If you are here and you struggle with that, We have a class coming up that you should be a part of. **D1 (Monday June 21st 6pm Registration is out at the welcome table)**

Luke 11:14-28

Now he was casting out a demon that was mute. When the demon had gone out, the mute man spoke, and the people marveled. 15 But some of them said, "He casts out demons by Beelzebul, the prince of demons," 16 while others, to test him, kept seeking from him a sign from heaven. 17 But he, knowing their thoughts, said to them, "Every kingdom divided against itself is laid waste, and a divided household falls. 18 And 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 cast out demons by Beelzebul, by whom do your sons cast them out? Therefore they will be your judges. 20 But if it is by the finger of God that I cast out demons, then the kingdom of God has come upon you. 21 When a strong man, fully armed, guards his own palace, his goods are safe; 22 but when one stronger than he attacks him and overcomes him, he takes away his armor in which he trusted and divides his spoil. 23 Whoever is not with me is against me, and whoever does not gather with me scatters.

24 "When the unclean spirit has gone out of a person, it passes through waterless places seeking rest, and finding none it says, 'I will return to my house from which I came.' 25 And when it comes, it finds the house swept and put in order. 26 Then it goes and brings 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."

27 As he said these things, a woman 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, "Blessed rather are those who hear the word of God and keep it!"

3 points this morning - 1 There are only 2 sides, 2 you cannot be on both sides, 3 Whose side are you on?

There Are Only Two Sides

- Demons, Yes we believe in them. The Bible talks about them, that means we talk about them.
 - (Revelation 12:7-10 & Isaiah 14:4-17) Tells us that there is an epic, cosmic battle that preexists the creation of the heavens and the earth, that preexists the

creation of the man and the woman, that God, who is uncaused, uncreated, and eternal created angels, immaterial spirit beings, to honor, to serve, to obey and assist his work in creation. And there was this epic, cosmic battle in the heavens, where a lead angel named Satan had joining with him a number of other angels in rebellion against God, wanting to usurp and supplant God, to rule and reign in his place, receiving the glory that is due only to him. God put down this insurrection of lesser, created beings and they took their fight to the earth to our first parents, Adam and Eve. And there Satan, their commander in chief, tempted our first parents and they aligned with him, rebelling against God in sin. The result is that from that moment forward, human history is marked and marred by satanic, demonic sin, folly, rebellion, destruction, and devastation. And this epic, cosmic battle rages. We are each born into it.

- And as with all wars, this is a big scale war with personal, individual consequences (father in vietnam) This spiritual war is no different, and individual consequences are everywhere we look on the pages of scriptures.
- So in **Luke 4**, we see a man who is suffering from demonic oppression and attack. Jesus liberates him. We see also in Luke 4 that there are **many who are sick from diseases brought by unclean, unholy, unhelpful spirits called demons** and Jesus defeats them and heals people. We see this as well in Luke 8, where we meet a woman named **Mary Magdalene**, who had no less than seven demons. We also meet a man who is a **demoniac**. He had so many demons involved in his life that this man was **living like an animal** and the demons collectively refer to themselves as Legion. We also saw in **Luke 9** where **there's a little boy who has a series of seizures** that come from demonic attack and Jesus heals him and frees him.
- All throughout history, demons have manifested in various ways, but some of the most deceptive is how they have created for themselves entire religions.
 - Some said = He is casting out demons by a beelzebul
 - Baal-zebul was the chief god of the philistine army
 - Israelites disdainfully referred to him as baal=zebul "lord of the flies, rightfully recognizing that that "god" was not a god at all but satan or one of His demons in disguise)
 - The same is true today - Allah, Krishna, Gaia, Ashtaroth, Zeus. These all come from the same place! In their rebellion against God, and their desire to take His place, these demons have created worshippers for themselves.
 - 2 Corinthians 4:4 - In their case the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelievers, to keep them from seeing the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God.
 - There are not many religions, there are only two. There are not many sides, there are only two.

You Cannot Be on Both Sides

1. Others were looking for a sign. (something greater than casting out a demon)
 - a. They wanted their feeding of the five thousand, they wanted their calming of the storm, they wanted their dead raised back to life.
 - b. They take the classic agnostic position, which is that "I am God, I sit on a throne as a judge, and Jesus needs to present to me all of the facts and findings to my liking so that I can render a verdict of deity or not deity." Be very careful that you don't sit on a throne, judging Jesus. That's not our position. Be very careful that you don't reject Jesus, simply saying, as they do, "We want to see more evidence."
 - i. He was born of a virgin. He lived without sin. He walked on water. He rose from the dead. He cast out demons. He himself died and returned to life three days later. The evidence is sufficient, though the heart and mind may be unwilling to receive it. But the problem is not with the evidence. The problem is with us if we reject him
2. Jesus knew their thoughts
 - a. He knows your thoughts and my thoughts as well. Nothing escapes Him.
3. A House Divided
 - a. Why would a servant of Satan cast out another servant of Satan? Doesn't make any sense at all. Why would an American soldier shoot an American soldier? Doesn't make any sense at all.
 - b. Division destroys.
 - i. This is why we see so much scripture devoted to unity in the new testament! (Matthew 18:15, 1st Corinthians 1:10, Ephesians 4:1-6, Philippians 2:3, Psalm 133:1, Romans 15:5-6, 1st John 4:20) We cannot think that we will be effective ministers of the gospel if we are bickering and infighting with one another.

4. 4 Ways we see division today

a. A divided nation

- i. The Jewish nation which had been divided for hundreds of years.
- ii. The Nation of America, today there is division on a scale not seen since the civil war.
 1. Created hatred for those Jesus called us to reach!

b. A divided church

- i. I believe that there are only 2 things the church is to be about. Gospel and Community. If we get outside these two things, we have strayed from God's purpose for the church.
- ii. We make it so much harder than it has to be! Churches fight far too often over buildings, budgets, and business meetings.
 1. Coffee, Carpets, Whether or not the pastors should be clean shaven.

c. A divided marriage/family

- i. Selfishness in a struggling marriage reigns supreme. No marriage can stand when both parties are looking at their own needs as most important and the other person as the problem.
- d. A divided mind
 - i. Matthew 6:24 - No one can serve two masters, for either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and money.
 - ii. You cannot serve both God and SIN
 - 1. Why do we sin? - Because we love it...
 - iii. Any time we place God in second place we are walking toward our own destruction.

Whose Side Are You On?

1. The Enemies forces come in all shapes and sizes
 - a. There were other exorcists. There were religious spiritual leaders who would come around and try and cast out unclean spirits. The people were familiar with them. But there is evidence in Acts 19 that these exorcists were con artists who used tricks and deception to fabricate phony exorcisms. Vs 19 - "they will be your judges"
 - b. You cannot fake being a christian, Parlor Tricks won't work. There are some in this room that behave this way. You pretend you are living righteously when you are sinning, you act like you are reading your Bible when you are not. You desire everyone to see you as holy, righteous, and good, but you are none of those things. All the while, your christian walk is make-believe. I have some hard things to say to you this morning. Your deceptions are a waste of time. You may fool me, you may fool your neighbors, coworkers and friends, but YOU ARE NOT FOOLING GOD. And attempting to do so is a grievous sin. One that I would strongly urge you to repent of.
 - c. When we behave in this way, we are basically saying, "God I want everyone to think I am on your side, but really I am playing for the other team. I am more concerned with maintaining my appearance than my holiness."
 - d. Many churches have been destroyed by Satan through insurgents who claim to believers yet practice something else.
2. God's forces have two defining characteristics.
 - a. Profession
 - i. Gospel (believe and confess)
 - b. Practice
 - i. There is a battle raging. Do not be caught off guard!
 - ii. "I will return to my house from which I came" (Vs 24-26)
 1. Come thou fount of every blessing
 - a. Oh, to grace how great a debtor, Daily I'm constrained to be, Let Thy goodness like a fetter, Bind my wandering heart to Thee, Prone to wander, Lord I feel it, Prone to

leave the God I love, Here's my heart, oh take and seal it,
Seal it for Thy courts above

2. 1st Peter 5:8 - Be of sober spirit, be on the alert. Your adversary, the devil, prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour.
- iii. Abide
 1. Faithful devotions (Vs 27-28)
 2. Faithful Prayer
 3. Faithful Church community
 - a. Academics, Sports, Relationships all come second.
- iv. Church Stand Firm.

Christ Has Already Won (Conclusion)

1. Strong man (Vs 20-23)
2. Satan is real, Spiritual battle is waging whether we realize it or not. God, through Jesus Christ, has already secured the victory, but until the final blow is dealt, Satan is not going down quietly.
 - a. Let's Join the fight, Filled with the Spirit, knowing that the war has been won, and the victory is already secured!

Invitation

Pray



LUKE 11:14-28 Two Kingdoms

INTRODUCTION The gospel has the power to save and transform our lives but it must land on receptive hearts. We are reminded in the Parable of the Sower that if our hearts are not tender then the gospel will not take root.

DISCUSSION

- How is the gospel like a lamp?

EXPLANATION

- What is the light we are supposed to shine?
- How does hearing relate to hiding or displaying the light of the gospel?
- Why does Jesus take such a strong stance between his earthly family and His spiritual family?
- What does this passage tell us about the connection between faith and obedience?

APPLICATION

- In what ways can the gospel naturally be on display in your day-to-day life?
- How or when are you tempted to hide the gospel in your life?
- What can we do as a community to encourage one another to be a light to the world?

THE 5 W's (broken up into gendered groups)

- Word (How have you gotten into the word this week?)
- Wife/Husband/Family (How are you doing with your spouse/family?)
- Wellness (What are you doing to take care of yourself?)
- Work (How are you handling the work God has given you?)
- Witness (Who have you witnessed to, or prayed for this week?)