

## **Spiritual Conflict Misinterpreted With Catastrophic Results:**

Matthew 12:28; Luke 11:14-28 27 MARCH 2022

Today's sermon has to do with the miraculous deliverance of a man who was blind, speechless, and demon possessed: the miraculous deliverance is followed by violent spiritual argument. It is recorded in Matthew 12:22-37; Mark 3:22-30; Luke 11:14-27-- indicative of importance.

### **I. Our Lord Jesus Christ gives real deliverance from real satanic power: Luke 11:14-20.**

- A. **The deliverance in this case was striking and immediate:** “the dumb spoke” ”the people wondered.” (blind as well: Matt. 12:22)
- B. **It is recorded in the Bible *lest spiritual conflict be misinterpreted with catastrophic results.***

1. Demons are real 2. Damage is real 3. Deliverance through the Lord Jesus Christ is real

### **Spiritual Conflict Misinterpreted With Catastrophic Results—is real: Matt. 12:28**

If a person is filled with the Holy Spirit will he always get good results?

- C. Do we accept the Bible's statements about the ***condition of the present evil age that we are part of?***

Consider II Cor. 4:3,4 But even if our gospel is veiled (hidden) it is veiled to them that are perishing, whose minds the god of this age has blinded, lest the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God should shine unto them.

Consider I John 5:19 We know that we are of God, and the whole world lies under the sway of the wicked one. Consider Colossians 1:13 He has delivered us from the power of darkness and translated us into the kingdom of His dear Son.

Do we really grasp the Bible's statements about spiritual realities and activities taking place in the unseen world that make it the present evil age that it is?

**Galatians 1:4 is an absolute, desperate necessity for each one us here.** Who gave Himself for our sins, that he might deliver us from this present evil age, according to the will of our God and father.

- D. Marvel at willful spiritual blindness: 11:15 God sets **blasphemers and fence straddlers** 11:23, before us to warn us and others; this is recorded in Matthew, Mark, and Luke. Look at them well.

### **II. There are states of corruption from which there is no release: Mark 3:28-30**

“This is one of the more solemn pronouncements and warnings in the Scriptures—it is also coupled with a great promise. The promise is that that there is forgiveness with God for every sin and blasphemy except one. This is the sin of the willfully blind, who refuse the illumination of the Holy Spirit, they oppose the Spirit's work so entirely--actually calling the Spirit's work the work of Satan. There is no forgiveness for such.”

A similar thing will overtake vast numbers of people in the last of the last days; II Thess. 2:10b-12.

The unpardonable sin is impossible apart from considerable spiritual light.

You may have sinned very greatly even as David did—and yet if there be a broken and a contrite spirit the Lord will not despise you but will wash you thoroughly from your iniquity. Isaiah 1:18

### III. You may expect to live a victorious life in union with our Lord Jesus Christ: Luke 11:21-22.

A. The strong man is Satan, his goods are his captives.

B. “A stronger than he” is Jesus Christ the God/man.

What you are seeing and hearing in Luke 11:20-22 is glorious Kingdom might: “finger of God”—Spirit filling that is giving Christ absolute mastery of the spirit world. The blind however—so close yet so far.

C. Everything the Bible tells us about Satan and demons is designed to turn us to Christ.

### IV. Spiritual conflict misdiagnosed will be attended with catastrophic consequences: 11:23-26.

A. What Jesus is really demanding of his critics is to **compare cures.**

**Your sons supposedly cast out demons: 11:19 By whom? Do your sons do it by the Spirit of God?**

**B. When I cast out the demons I completely 'overcome him' my people are made well: they experience real freedom that really lasts.**

“shall come upon him ” Luke 11: 22 see Christ's mastery of the spirit world Matthew 4:10,24;8:16,28.

All Satan's Armour is of no avail when I come upon him. **What about your sons? Vagabond exorcists: Acts 19:11-16.**

**C. In Luke 11:24-26 Jesus is stigmatizing—scorning--the works of their son's attempts to cast out demons.**

**Note the demons response to Jesus in Luke 8:30,31. They beg Him.**

**Not so in Luke 11:24-26: here *the demon more or less scoffs sarcastically*—practically laughing at his impotent eviction notice. Godet explains well that the demon knows nothing is jeopardized at all in his former domain. With gaiety he returns celebrating with friends. Matthew 12:44 when he is come (the “expelled” demon)—**he finds it empty, swept, and garnished.****

### Contemporary Applications

What is clear from Luke 11:14-28 is that **to oppose Satan apart from Christ, his only conqueror, is to work for Satan and against God.** Note that despite Christ's religious enemies' supposed attempts to battle against Satan “the last state of that man is worse than the first” (Luke 11:26).

Islamists think they are battling “the great Satan.” When a person embraces Islam with a view of casting out Satan *the state of that man is worse than at the first.*

The same is true of Mormonism. When a person embraces Mormonism with a view of casting out Satan *the state of that man is worse than at the first.*

The same is true of Jehovah's Witnesses (Russellism). When a person embraces watchtower/Russellism with a view of casting out Satan *the state of that man is worse than at the first.*

The same is true of Christian (?) Psychotherapy and the majority of Christian (?) Psychology. When a person embraces psychotherapy/psychology with a view of casting out Satan *the state of that man is worse than at the first.*

The same is true of fence straddlers: 11:23. Not as hostile as blasphemers—but not yielded to Christ—body and soul. Though doubtless unconscious of the fact, they are also persons under *the power of darkness*, “He has delivered us from the power of darkness” (Colossians 1:13). They lie, *under the sway of the devil*:

Romans 12:1,2. #381 Is your all on the Alter?

This has much to do with Galatians.

The same is true of Christian (?) rock music. When a person embraces Christian rock music as a way of going forward in the Lord and resisting Satan that person has embraced a delusion and *the state of that person is worse than at the first*. Ron Luce founder of “Acquire the Fire” a youth organization that promotes Christian rock concerts claims to have gained 200,000 signed promises of young people who promise not to have sex before marriage. These worthless scraps of paper are no more effectual at preventing immorality than sending Samson to Delilah's house with the instructions that he may be with her, go inside the house, listen to music, eat, drink, and visit, but Samson you must sign a promise that you will be good and pure.

**Does America understand what is taking place spiritually?**