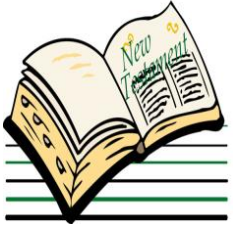


# Sermon Notes

Title: *“What Jesus Said When Accused of Being in League with the Devil” Part 4*

Text: Matthew 12:43-45

Theme: Our world is filled with “self-help” programs and techniques designed to make life “the best it can be.” Many of these have value in their proper sphere and place. But anything that would seek to clean up your life yet leave Christ out of it, will make your condition worse, not better.



I. The Unclean Spirit's \_\_\_\_\_ for \_\_\_\_\_ (43)

II. The Desire to \_\_\_\_\_ to the \_\_\_\_\_ Habitation (44)

III. The \_\_\_\_\_ Condition Is \_\_\_\_\_ Than the Former (45a)

IV. Jesus' \_\_\_\_\_ Will \_\_\_\_\_ Further (45b)

## V. Applications

- A. This passage is first of all concerned with showing what will happen to \_\_\_\_\_ because of its \_\_\_\_\_ to the \_\_\_\_\_.
- B. There is no \_\_\_\_\_. Every person is either under the \_\_\_\_\_ of Satan, or in the \_\_\_\_\_ and Kingdom of God and under His \_\_\_\_\_ and benefits.
- C. Continued refusal to acknowledge Christ's ownership of your life results in your \_\_\_\_\_ becoming \_\_\_\_\_ over time, not \_\_\_\_\_.

Next Week Read: Matthew 12:46-50

Questions to Discuss and Consider at Home or in Small Group:

1. What did Jesus say could go out of a person (v. 43a)?
2. Why was the Lord addressing this issue?
3. What does this spirit seek after being cast out?
4. Where does this spirit go? Does it find what it seeks (v. 43b)?
5. What course of action does the unclean spirit take (v. 44a)?
6. What does this spirit find upon returning (v. 44b)?
7. What does Jesus mean by the "house" being "empty, swept, and put in order" (v. 44b)?
8. What does this spirit do when he returns (v. 45a)?
9. What is the result in the person's life (v. 45b)?
10. To whom does Jesus apply these words (v. 45c)?
11. What was the "worse condition" of the Israel of Jesus' generation?
12. Jesus addresses the issue of demonic oppression and exorcism. How can what Christ says in this passage have any relevance to a culture or to individuals who do not experience such a situation?
13. Cite an example of what it means to have one's "house empty, swept, and put in order."
14. What would be an example of a non-Christian receiving a benefit from God but that benefit not resulting in a lasting blessing and even making a person's life worse?
15. Many people reject the truth of the Gospel, and their lives are great. How then can their "last condition be worse than the first"?
16. Why is the idea that Satan and his minions are figments of the imagination such a dangerous position? How would you address the person who contends that belief in the devil and demons is superstition? 17. How do we distinguish between a worse spiritual condition and a condition where things are worse in our lives? If things are going badly in your life, does that mean your spiritual condition is worse?
18. What value, if any, do self-help programs and techniques have? How are they inherently deficient?
19. Is there any value in a civic righteousness? What are the benefits? What are the dangers?
20. How would you assess our generation in terms of its "former" and "last" condition?