

Matthew 12:43-50
The Demon Principle

A house divided ...

I. The Spirit World

A. Unseen and Real

B. A Hard Illustration

II. Unbelief

A. Increasing Darkness

B. The Danger of Backsliding

III. And the Power of Christ

A. To Deliver

B. To Transform

... or a house in order.

Children, Listen ...

1. Does the Bible teach that there is a such a thing as demons?
2. Do people who believe in Jesus have to worry about what demons might do?
3. Do you think it is important to make sure Jesus is really your Lord and Savior?
4. We can't live for Jesus in our own strength. If we ask the Holy Spirit to help us, will he?

5. Circle things that will help you to grow in faith.

Read the Bible Pray Worship in Church Go to Sunday School

No Empty Houses

While I am convinced that Jesus is referring to real life demonic activity in our passage, he is using it as an analogy or possibly even a parable to drive home a powerful warning. In other words, his teaching is not a study in demonology, but a warning about the dangers of rejecting the Gospel. Individuals may experience some semblance of reform by the compelling influence of Christianity, but if there is not true conversion to Christ, they will be worse off in the long run. (This certainly applies to "generations" - nations, regions, cities, towns, etc. as well). Such "houses" may be "swept clean" for the moment, but they will not stay empty; either the Holy Spirit will indwell them, or the spirit of unbelief will return with exponential vengeance. Their ultimate resistance to total transformation will result in an even worse condition. To sum it up, our concern is not with demon's and their devilish work, but with the condition of our own "house", our soul. This stands as a sobering warning to nominal Christians and the backslidden. The question is, is your house in order with Jesus as Lord over it and the Holy Spirit indwelling it? Or are you still vulnerable to unbelief creeping back in and wreaking havoc on your life and jeopardizing it in the hereafter?