

Disbelief, Denial And Demons

We again turn our attention to these precious words given to us in the Book of Luke, chapter 11. And over and over again, as we've studied these precious words, we've encountered circumstances when as Jesus preached His message of salvation and taught the people, He also blessed many of them by healing the infirmities of their bodies, giving sight to the blind, healing the crippled and the maimed, and on and on.

And also, it seems often that as He healed some of the people, their sicknesses and their diseases were being caused by unclean demonic spirits. And as Jesus would drive those demonic spirits out of the people, they would be completely healed.

Now here today in this passage given to us in Luke chapter 11, we find another of those afflictions with the cause clearly being brought about by an oppressive demon. In this circumstance, a demon that caused a man to be unable to speak. And Jesus healed the man by driving the demon out of him.

My question for us today is one that I've asked us on several other occasions. How willing are we to accept that these sorts of demonically inflicted illnesses are taking place within many of the people in our world today, even perhaps within people that we know personally.

And how willing are we to accept that other forms of demonic influences are also present within our society and within our culture, influences that manifest themselves in strange, and evil behaviors within people's lives and families, causing them to make choices that they should not make and to do things they should not do?

Or will we choose instead to blindly refuse to believe that such things are really real, seeing only the faces of real people and denying the involvement of the demonic realm. And along with that denial, deny the precious truth about the ministry that the Lord Jesus wants to have within the matters of our own daily lives.

Turn with me to Luke chapter 11, and beginning with verse 14, follow along as I read.

¹⁴And He (the Lord Jesus) was casting out a demon, and it was mute. So it was, when the demon had gone out, that the mute spoke; and the multitudes marveled. ¹⁵But some of them said, "He casts out demons by Beelzebub, the ruler of the demons." ¹⁶Others, testing *Him*, sought from Him a sign from heaven. ¹⁷But He, knowing their thoughts, said to them: "Every kingdom divided against itself is brought to desolation, and a house *divided* against a house falls. ¹⁸If Satan also is divided against himself, how will his kingdom stand? (Luke 11:14-23)

May I say again that there are many ways that we can deny the Lord Jesus, and there are many reasons why we choose to do it. And we won't even realize when it's taking place. But we do, just within the rush of our doing the ordinary things of our ordinary day.

As I navigate my way through all the many occurrences of my day, seeing the sinful behaviors and the conduct of the people around me, and especially those people that are given prominence within our media, I can easily see and know that the sinful and immoral things they are saying and doing are beyond the boundaries of ordinary common rationale.

And though I'm able to know that the remedy for all those sinful behaviors is beyond the abilities of human intelligence to do, too often, instead of quickly turning to the Lord Jesus in prayer, it seems that my mind first turns to the normal human and secular answers and fixes.

Folks, it is so much easier for our rational minds to simply dismiss those bad behaviors and those conducts of those people using some "commonsense" explanation, concluding that those people are just mean, or angry or that they have bad habits, never stopping too realize and to accept that there is probably something far more sinister at work within them.

A question . . . "Is our reaching for such "commonsense" explanations always a denial of Christ?" Maybe not always, but sadly, I fear that too often, it might be!

Here in our scripture passage for today, we have a denial of Christ taking place, not of His power and His provision, that is evident from the miracle He performed. But rather it is a denial of "who He is", of His Character and of His Holiness. And yes, that kind of denial of Christ is truly far worse than the inadvertent use of our common sense.

To deny that God is God and to accuse Him of joining forces with the devil, and then to further denigrate Him by accusing Him of being so subservient to the devil that He needs the devil's help to cast out demons is "pure blasphemy."

But that was what these Pharisees were claiming. With only their "common sense" to guide them, they could only believe that Jesus was an ordinary man and not the all-powerful Messiah who was now among them. And they did not believe that Jesus, as an ordinary man, would be able to cast out demons by His own power, or by the power of God the Father. But rather instead, He had to depend upon the power of satan to do such things. And that was a complete denial of who Jesus was and of His Holiness.

And no, the Pharisees probably didn't realize that they themselves were joining in league with Beelzebub, the prince of demons, as they made their accusations towards Jesus. But they obviously were. Their behavior proved it.

And again, as I mentioned a moment ago, our own denial of Christ, of who He is, of His person, of His Godly character, of His presence among us, of His power and of His provision can also take place within our own souls in so many ways and for so many reasons.

Here in our passage, these Pharisees were simply doing what they usually did. It seemed to be their preoccupation to follow Jesus around and try to subvert His ministry of salvation. And to do that effectively, they had to continually discredit Him, to deny who He really was, the Messiah, the one who was prophesied to come and save His people from their sins.

Here, in this particular circumstance, the Pharisees could not deny the miracle itself. It was obvious that Jesus had cast out a demon and had cured a man of the affliction of being unable to speak. But they still needed a way to discredit Him. And this was their ploy, to accuse Him of being in league with satan.

And let's also remember that satan and his demons work in many ways. Here, a demon had been able to keep a man from being able to talk. But folks, I have no doubt that satan and his demons were also within the minds and voices of those Pharisees as they slandered the character and the work of Jesus.

Let me read these words again for us, so that we can consider them more carefully. Verse 14,

¹⁴And He was casting out a demon, and it was mute. So it was, when the demon had gone out, that the mute spoke; and the multitudes marveled. ¹⁵But some of them said, "He casts out demons by Beelzebub, the ruler of the demons." ¹⁶Others, testing *Him*, sought from Him a sign from heaven. ¹⁷But He, knowing their thoughts, said to them: "Every kingdom divided against itself is brought to desolation, and a house *divided* against a house falls. (Luke 11:14-17)

Note first, in verse 17, that Jesus knew everything that those Scribes and Pharisees were thinking. He always does folks. He knows what every person, each one of us, is thinking every moment of every day.

And also, here in this miracle, Jesus healed a man of the inability to speak. And as He healed the man, He also clearly and distinctly showed that the man's affliction had been caused by a demon.

And that also tells us something about how the demonic kingdom actually functions. Here, this particular demon had the ability to make a person "mute", "speechless".

In other words, the inference here is that demons can have particular abilities and purposes assigned to them as they afflict people.

And the inference further being that if this demon was specifically able to take away a man's speech, then other demons may have other specific abilities and purposes, such as, the demoniac in the Gadarene tombs made that man extremely violent.

And in other places in these scriptures we can read where other demons caused blindness, and others deafness, and others epilepsy, or crippling paralysis or mental diseases. And the people were cured of their afflictions only when a demon was cast out of them.

And all this presents us with the question that I ask a few moments ago . . . "Is there more taking place within our own present day illnesses, our diseases and especially in our behaviors than just the ordinary matters of human life?"

And that is especially so as we consider all of the many abhorrent and violent behaviors that are reported in our news media these days, behaviors that are so often attributed to diseases, or some other mental health condition.

And that question is especially important in light of the fact that as we are treated for those conditions, we are seldom, if ever, fully cured of our problems. We simply take enough medication to enable us to live with our afflictions.

The question again . . . Is it always and simply as our medical professionals and our societal leaders insists, that all of our difficulties and miseries are solely and completely attributable to physical and mental maladies and to dysfunctions, never considering the possible involvement from the demonic kingdom?

And if that be so, if our doctors are right, what has happened to all the demons that used to roam the earth and make all those people miserable back in Jesus' day? Did they simply go away? Are they no longer a factor in our modern daily lives?

Let me strongly declare to you that the answer to those questions is an emphatic "no". These scriptures make no mention that the demons would ever go away. If anything, the scriptures indicate that the demonic kingdom will get far more active as we journey on towards the "end of days".

We are clearly warned about their current day presence and their warfare against us in the words of Ephesians chapter 6. Listen!

¹⁰Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord and in the power of His might. ¹¹Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. ¹²For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places. (Ephesians 6:10-12)

So then, again no, there is no indication that the demons have gone away. To the contrary, the demons are still here with us today and they are as active and hurtful and crippling and destructive as they have always been. And that can also be so within the behaviors and conducts of ordinary people.

Now, before I say these next words, I'd like to give you a warning about them. As I have considered them, it seems that some of my words might sound like my

own personal opinions rather than coming out from these scriptures. I don't want my words to be my personal opinions. And I do believe that they fit within the context of the scriptures we are studying here, that of the demonic world involving itself within the widespread denial of Christ and of His Holy intentions for men's souls, as we live within this crooked and perverse generation of people.

And again, as I said a moment ago, the denial of the Lord Jesus can take on many forms. One in particular that seems to be taking place within the churches of our day is the insistence that the only purpose that Jesus has among us is to "love" us. And with the "commonsense rationale" of those modern-day church leaders, they further believe that because Jesus has such great love for us and doesn't desire for any of us to perish, He is willing to forfeit His Holiness, and willing to accept any and all behaviors and conducts that we show within our lives and our lifestyles in order to bring us safely into heaven.

Folks, the effect of that kind of corrupt belief, that kind of religion, is for Jesus to do as He was accused of here in our passage, that of joining leagues with the devil himself. That Jesus is so desirous of saving people that He would give up His Holiness so that He can welcome all of the sinful people and sinful behaviors into His eternal kingdom.

I'm speaking especially about the "over the top" evil demands that are being voiced all throughout our culture today, demands like those that are called "social issues", issues like that of "gender confusion", "gender dysphoria", "transgenderism", the radical beliefs within "woke politics", and the widespread demand that homosexual behaviors be accepted as absolutely normal. And the list goes on and on.

That current focus of attention by the demonic world has been so very influencing, even controlling, upon the minds and the personalities of our society and culture, fully changing societal norms, bringing full acceptance of bizarre beliefs and behaviors that even just a few short years ago would have been thought to be unconscionable, beliefs and behaviors like that of full acceptance and even encouragement of the mutilation of the bodies of our precious children.

And even further, laws are being formulated and enacted to make it a crime to oppose and to voice opposition to such perverse behaviors.

And those beliefs have cleverly worked their way into many of our churches and church settings. And with that being so, many of the churches and church leaders of today have chosen to openly advocate that although those people openly and freely practice their sinful behaviors, Jesus lovingly and fully accepts and approves of them and their behaviors as they are.

And with that being so, I must conclude that those church leaders are doing no less than that which is being spoken of here in our scripture passage, they are agreeing that Jesus would, and has, joined leagues with Beelzebub, the ruler of the demons, the devil, so that those who practice such vile behaviors can continue with their behaviors and still be welcomed not only into our local church settings, but also into God's eternal life and kingdom.

Folks, from all that I can know from the truths within these scriptures, those church leaders are some of the worst of "false teachers", influenced by demons and teaching abominable heresy to those who choose to follow in their path.

And it is just as Jesus warned us about in this passage, churches that are divided in this way, cannot stand. And that is clearly evident as we see so many churches and church denominations splitting apart.

Now, with all of that being said, what are we, you and I, to do? First of all, we must make sure that we ourselves don't fall into those same traps and temptations. As we are told in 2 Corinthians 13, we need to continually examine our own souls to see if we, ourselves, are truly "in the faith" as God wants us to be. Listen to those words!

⁵ Examine yourselves, to see whether you are in the faith. Test yourselves. Or do you not realize this about yourselves, that Jesus Christ is in you. (2 Corinthians 13:5)

These words in this verse, "that Jesus Christ is in you", remind us that we are the "Temple of the Holy Spirit". And as God's temple, we dare not involve ourselves in such sinful behaviors as are those that are so prevalent in our culture today.

And folks, that also means that we are not to take part in advocating for those sinful behaviors. If we do, even in our conversation, we are in danger of doing even as those sinful people do, that of denying the holiness of the Lord Jesus and placing Him in the position of being in league with Beelzebub, the ruler of the demons, the devil.

I give this warning because each of us has the tendency to “talk”, to get involved in unguarded conversations about such matters as these.

And also, some of us might have friends, or family members, who advocate for such beliefs as we've mentioned here today. I know that I have some of those advocates within my own family, and it is heartbreaking. And I have to guard my words and behaviors carefully as I talk with them.

Before we close, may I caution us again, that there are many ways that we can deny the Lord Jesus, and there are many reasons why we choose to do it. And again, most often, we as believers don't even realize when it's taking place, when we are actually denying Jesus, but we can and do!

And also, we must be careful not to join with or align ourselves with churches and church leaders that advocate for these sinful behaviors. Yes, we should, and must witness the truths of the Lord Jesus privately to the leaders and to the members of those churches. And may I add, our witness must be gentle and with loving intentions.

And we must pray, pray continually, for the souls in this lost and dying world. I'll close with these words . . .

¹If then you were raised with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ is, sitting at the right hand of God. ²Set your mind on things above, not on things on the earth. (Colossians 3:1-2)

Let's Pray.