

# 'Luke' - Extra Teaching Points #18

## Luke 11:14-32 (NASB95)

### Luke 11:14-23

*"And He was casting out a demon, and it was mute; when the demon had gone out, the mute man spoke; and the crowds were amazed. <sup>15</sup> But some of them said, "He casts out demons by Beelzebul, the ruler of the demons." <sup>16</sup> **Others, to test Him, were demanding of Him a sign from heaven.** <sup>17</sup> But He knew their thoughts and said to them, "Any kingdom divided against itself is laid waste; and a house divided against itself falls. <sup>18</sup> "If Satan also is divided against himself, how will his kingdom stand? For you say that I cast out demons by Beelzebul. <sup>19</sup> "And if I by Beelzebul cast out demons, by whom do your sons cast them out? So they will be your judges. <sup>20</sup> **"But if I cast out demons by the finger of God, then the kingdom of God has come upon you.** <sup>21</sup> "When a strong man, fully armed, guards his own house, his possessions are undisturbed. <sup>22</sup> **"But when someone stronger than he attacks him and overpowers him, he takes away from him all his armor on which he had relied and distributes his plunder.** <sup>23</sup> "He who is not with Me is against Me; and he who does not gather with Me, scatters."*

Matt 12:22-24 records a very similar story.

- It could be the same story, but it could just as likely be a different one.
- If it is a different story, then it seems that accusations of Jesus being in league with the devil, was about as common as Him casting out demons.

**Vs. 16** It seems strange that some of them were demanding signs from Jesus right after He cast a demon out. You would think the exorcism would be a good enough sign.

- The Jews had exorcists too (**vs. 19**), so they were familiar with demons being cast out.
- The difference between what their exorcists did and what Jesus did, was HOW they cast out demons.
- Their exorcists used incantations and rituals, (like you might see a Catholic priest do today), but Jesus just used His authority—when He said you gotta go, the demons recognized who He was, and submitted to His authority.
- This may explain why some people accused Him of being in league with Beelzebub, (e.g., the demons took orders from Jesus).
- The fact, that the demons obeyed Jesus, wasn't proof of Him being in league with Beelzebub, it was proof that Jesus was the King of a far superior Kingdom!
- In **vs. 22**, Jesus may as well be saying, "You can see that I'm plundering Satan's house. It should tell you that I'm stronger than he is, and that I've made him incapable of resistance."

**Vs. 23** This sounds almost like a contradiction to what Jesus said in Luke 9:50.

- It is not a contradiction.
  - In Luke 9:50 someone was casting out demons in Jesus' Name... which meant they were for Jesus and His agenda... even if they weren't on Jesus' team.
  - In this passage, Jesus' critics were more interested in discrediting Him than they were in seeing people freed from the torment of demons.

## Luke 11:24-26

*“When the unclean spirit goes out of a man, it passes through waterless places seeking rest, and not finding any, it says, ‘I will return to my house from which I came.’”<sup>25</sup> “And when it comes, it finds it swept and put in order.”<sup>26</sup> “Then it goes and takes along seven other spirits more evil than itself, and they go in and live there; and the last state of that man becomes worse than the first.”*

On the surface, this looks like a teaching about demons and what happens after Jesus has done an exorcism.

- However, Matt 12:43-45 adds, *“That is the way it will also be with this evil generation.”*
- The generation that was there when Jesus arrived in Israel, was largely under the control of the Devil.
  - Demon possession seemed to be prevalent everywhere Jesus went in Israel.
- Satan had a real foothold there in Israel, but Jesus’ ministry uprooted that foothold!
  - Satan’s power is deception and darkness, but Jesus is the *light*. ([John 1:9-13](#))
  - Jesus drove out the darkness.
- The nation of Israel was like a man delivered from demons; but it was going to get worse... much worse!
  - Why will it get worse?
    - When a man is delivered from demons, he needs to follow up by closing the doors that allowed the demons access in the first place.
    - You close the doors by becoming a follower of Christ, being born again into the Kingdom of God, and walking in the light. ([John 12:35](#); [Eph. 5:8](#); [1John 1:7](#))
    - Jesus is teaching that there is always a possibility of re-infestation... which is always much worse!
    - It is not inevitable, but it is possible.
  - It did get worse for Israel... we have historical evidence of this.
    - Josephus records that, when the Romans laid siege to Jerusalem, the people inside the city were completely crazy—they burned all the food stores and resorted to cannibalism.
    - They were violent and perverted to such a degree that even the battle-hardened Roman soldiers were shocked.
    - There was no reasonable explanation for why the Jews would be so crazy, perverted, and violent within the city and against each other.
    - They literally devoured one another!
  - [Revelation 9:1-11](#) is quite possibly the prophecy about the demonic outbreak in Jerusalem in 70AD.
    - The Roman siege began in April of 70AD, and ended with the destruction of the temple in August of 70AD... 5 months.
    - [Rev 9:1-11](#) says the “scorpions” were given 5 months to torment anyone who didn’t have “the seal of God on their foreheads.”

## Luke 11:27-28

*“While Jesus was saying these things, one of the women in the crowd raised her voice and said to Him, “Blessed is the womb that bore You and the breasts at which You nursed.””<sup>28</sup> But He said, “On the contrary, blessed are those who hear the word of God and observe it.”*

Roman Catholicism teaches the supremacy of Mary, but Jesus said those who obey the Word of God were the ones who were blessed.

- Jesus didn’t deny that Mary was special, but He didn’t encourage anyone to think of her that way.
- It isn’t a physical relationship to Jesus that is important; the real advantage, and blessing, is in keeping the Word!

### Luke 11:29-32

*“As the crowds were increasing, He began to say, “This generation is a wicked generation; it seeks for a sign, and yet no sign will be given to it but the sign of Jonah.”<sup>30</sup> **“For just as Jonah became a sign to the Ninevites, so will the Son of Man be to this generation.”**<sup>31</sup> “The Queen of the South will rise up with the men of this generation at the judgment and condemn them, because she came from the ends of the earth to hear the wisdom of Solomon; and behold, something greater than Solomon is here.”<sup>32</sup> “The men of Nineveh will stand up with this generation at the judgment and condemn it, because they repented at the preaching of Jonah; and behold, something greater than Jonah is here.”*

Matt 12:39-40 parallels Luke 11:29-30, but adds that Jesus would appear after 3 days in the tomb.

- Jesus is saying this generation of Jews is more stubborn than the Gentiles, whom they considered to be inferior.

Q: Jesus called that generation of Jews a “wicked generation” because they were seeking signs. Why would seeking signs be a wicked thing? Do people still seek signs?

- They were unwilling to accept Jesus at His Word.
  - There was plenty of evidence of His authority that had already been provided, but they wanted to see something spectacular for themselves.
  - In other words, they were more impressed with miracles than the *message*.
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## Follow Up Assignment

Q: Are you looking for a sign before you will do what Jesus says?

Q: What is the hardest thing for you to believe... just because Jesus said it?