

A House Divided

Luke 11:14-23

June 13, 2021

And 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. ¹⁵ But some of them said, "He casts out demons by Beelzebub, the ruler of the demons." ¹⁶ Others, testing Him, sought from Him a sign from heaven. ¹⁷ But He, knowing their thoughts, said to them: "Every kingdom divided against itself is brought to desolation, and a house divided against a house falls. ¹⁸ If Satan also is divided against himself, how will his kingdom stand? Because you say I cast out demons by Beelzebub. ¹⁹ And if I cast out demons by Beelzebub, by whom do your sons cast them out? Therefore they will be your judges. ²⁰ But if I cast out demons with the finger of God, surely the kingdom of God has come upon you. ²¹ When a strong man, fully armed, guards his own palace, his goods are in peace. ²² But when a stronger than he comes upon him and overcomes him, he takes from him all his armor in which he trusted, and divides his spoils. ²³ He who is not with Me is against Me, and he who does not gather with Me scatters.

Luke 11:14-23

This is the third miracle of deliverance our Lord performed that elicited from His enemies the accusation that He was in league with Satan (see Matt. 9:32–34; 12:22–37). Instead of rejoicing that God had sent a Redeemer, the religious leaders were rebelling against the truth of God's Word and seeking to discredit Christ's work and character. Imagine people being so blind that they could not distinguish a work of God from a work of Satan! "Beelzebub" was one of the names of the Philistine god Baal (2 Kings 1:1–3); it means "lord of flies." A variant is "Beelzebub" which means "lord of the dwelling" and ties in with Christ's illustrations in Luke 11:18–26. The Jews often used this name when referring to Satan. The request in Luke 11:16 was a part of the accusation. "If you are really working for God," they were saying in effect, "prove it by giving us a sign from heaven, not just a miracle on earth." They were tempting God, which is a dangerous thing to do.¹

- Illogical accusation – why would Satan fight against himself?
- Charges were self-incriminating (by what power were the Jews casting out demons?)
- Their accusation was an admission of power, for He could not defeat Satan unless He was stronger than him.

What's the application for us?

It is impossible to be neutral in this spiritual war (Luke 11:23; also see 9:50), for neutrality means standing against Him. There are two spiritual forces at work in the world, and we must choose between them. Satan is scattering and destroying, but Jesus Christ is gathering and building. We must make a choice, and if we choose to make *no* choice, we are really choosing against Him. Jesus illustrated the danger of neutrality by telling the story of the man and the demon. The man's body was the demon's "house" (Luke 11:24, and note vv. 17 and 21). For some unknown reason, the demonic tenant decided to leave his "house" and go elsewhere. The man's condition improved immediately, *but the man did not invite God to come and dwell within*. In other words, the man remained neutral. What happened? The demon returned with seven other demons worse than himself, and the man's condition was abominable. "Neutrality in religion is always cowardice," wrote Oswald Chambers. "God turns the cowardice of a desired neutrality into terror." Taking sides with Jesus means much more than saying the right things, like the woman who cried, "Blessed is the womb that bore You, and the breasts which nursed You" (Luke 11:27, NKJV). She was certainly sincere, but that was not enough. *We take sides with Jesus Christ when we hear His Word and obey it* (see Luke 6:46–49; 8:19–21).²

Are you? :

Friend	Enemy
Lost	Saved
Blind	See
Hot	Cold

¹ Wiersbe, W. W. (1996). [*The Bible exposition commentary*](#) (Vol. 1, pp. 215–216). Wheaton, IL: Victor Books.

² Ibid.

Heaven bound
With Me

Hell Bound
Against Me

Now, go back and ask those questions as a Believer and how you live your life, do what you do, say what you say, etc.

The reason we have yet to experience true revival has NOTHING to do with the world itself, except that we are often more in the love with the world than we are with the Lord. We looked at it in our SS lesson this past week. The church in Ephesus is (referred to in Revelation 2) said to labor for the Lord, hate evil, had not become weary etc. but they had, "left their first love" (Revelation 2:4).

Can we just acknowledge that this is a problem/issue that we as Christians so often run into ourselves?

We become apathetic/indifferent to the Lord and The Gospel.
We allow others and other things to take place of our first love.
Where we were once hot, we have become cold or lukewarm.
We go after the Lord half-heartedly.
We honor God with our lips, but our hearts are far from Him.

Set my soul afire, Lord, for Thy holy Word, Burn it deep within me, let your voice be heard; Millions grope in darkness, in this day and hour, I will be Your witness, fill me with Thy pow'r.

Set my soul afire, Lord, set my soul afire, Make my life a witness of Thy saving pow'r. Millions grope in darkness, waiting for Thy Word, Set my soul afire, Lord, Set my soul afire.
Set my soul afire, Lord, for the lost in sin, Give to me a passion as I seek to win; Help me not to falter, never let me fail, Fill me with Thy Spirit, let Thy will prevail.

Set my soul afire, Lord, set my soul afire, Make my life a witness of Thy saving pow'r. Millions grope in darkness, waiting for Thy Word, Set my soul afire, Lord, Set my soul afire.
Set my soul afire, Lord, in my daily life, Far too long I've wondered in this day of strife; Nothing else will matter but to live for Thee. I will be Your witness as You live in me.

Set my soul afire, Lord, set my soul afire, Make my life a witness of Thy saving pow'r. Millions grope in darkness, waiting for Thy Word, Set my soul afire, Lord, Set my soul afire.
(Set My Soul Afire lyrics by Gene Bartlett)

"The world has yet to see what God will do with a man fully consecrated to Him." ~ **Dwight Lyman Moody**

Prayer Focus:

We would pray and cry out to God to make us on board with His heart and agenda. We would pray that He would set our soul on fire for Him. "God would you begin a revival and let it begin in me."