

Wednesday Evening Bible Study

September 18, 2019

The Gospel of Luke

Teaching on Devils

Topics – Luke 11:14; casting out devils; Beelzebub

Text – Luke 11:14 - 26

Congregational Reading – Luke 11:14 - 26

Introduction

We are in a section of Luke's gospel that contains exclusive information, meaning that the events that we are reading here are exclusive to Luke and are not also contained in the other gospel accounts. These exclusive events will continue straight on through the middle of chapter 18. There will be some minor breaks in the chronology where some information will be inserted from John's gospel, but for the most part, Luke alone contributes a significant portion of this last year of the ministry of Jesus.

Humorous illustration

Two 6-year-olds struggled with the problem of the existence of the devil. One boy said, "Oh, there isn't any devil." The other, rather upset, said, "What do you mean, there isn't any devil? It talks about him all the way through the Bible!" the first replied, "Oh that's not true, you know. It's just like Santa Clause, the devil turns out to be your dad."

Matthew's gospel (12:22 – 45) deals with the same subject that we see here in Luke. However, it does not appear to be the same event. Chronologically, the event in Matthew 12 took place earlier in the ministry of the Lord, probably in the second year. One possibility is that here the Lord is reflecting upon an earlier event; or perhaps Luke in his writing is rehearsing an event, which happened earlier.

Matthew's gospel has some additional information in it that will be helpful for our discussion here. Read Matthew 12:31 – 37.

Explain – blasphemy against the Holy Ghost or “the unpardonable sin” from vs. 31 – 32.

Explain the “fruit” passage from vs. 33 – 37.

I **The Removal of the Devil (v. 14)**

Let's discuss devil possession:

Illustration by Jim Cymbala

One Tuesday night two members of the church brought a teenager to the prayer meeting who, they said, was on drugs and needed to be delivered. That's all they told me. I didn't think too much about it; this kind of thing happens often. (Our wonderful members don't know better than to bring the unconverted to a prayer meeting!) About a half hour into the meeting, after we had been worshipping for a while, I said, “There's a girl here who's been brought by some members, and they'd like her to be prayed for; she's hooked on drugs.” These members began walking toward the front with a short Hispanic girl. She seemed in a daze—the effect of drugs, I assumed. Her name was Diana. I was standing, as I usually do on Tuesday nights, on the ground level with the people, at the head of the center aisle. All of a sudden, I began to tense up; alarm bells seemed to be going off in my spirit signifying that something was wrong—something was about to happen. I noticed off to my right a visiting evangelist I knew. I said to her, “Amy, it's good to see you here tonight. Would you come help me pray for this young lady?” As she moved out of her seat, the Holy Spirit came upon her, and she sensed the same anticipation. We were suddenly both on “red alert” for some unknown reason. One of the associate pastors joined us, and we

laid hands on Diana and began to pray. “O Jesus, help us,” I said quietly. Like a shot, the mention of Jesus’s name brought an explosion of rage and screaming. The five-foot-one-inch girl lunged for my throat, throwing back the two friends who had guided her up the aisle. Before I knew what was happening, I had been body-slammed against the front edge of the platform. Diana ripped the collar right off my white shirt as if it were a piece of tissue. A hideous voice from deep inside her began to scream, “You’ll never have her! She’s ours! Get away from her!” The language then turned obscene. The five-foot-one-inch girl lunged for my throat. Before I knew what was happening, I had been body-slammed backward against the platform. Some in the congregation stood and began to pray aloud. Others gasped. Some covered their eyes. Meanwhile, several deacons jumped up and tried to pull her off of me. Despite her size, she fought all of us with tremendous strength. We finally managed to subdue her. Amy, the evangelist, began to pray fervently. I leaned over the girl to address the spirits: “Shut up! In the name of Jesus, come out of her!” I demanded. Diana’s eyes rolled back in her head, and twice she spit directly into my face, no more than a foot away. The church kept earnestly calling out to God for his help. Clearly, we were not battling some imaginary “spirit of anger” or whatever. This was a classic case of demon possession. Within a few minutes, the girl was set totally free. She stopped cursing; her body relaxed. We relaxed our grip on her, and she gently stood up to raise her hands and begin praising the Lord. Soon she was singing, with the rest of us, “Oh, the blood of Jesus! It washes white as snow,” as tears streamed down her cheeks, ruining her makeup. Since then, and for many years now, Diana has been serving the Lord. When she eventually married, both she and her husband gave strong testimonies of their faith in front of mostly unbelieving relatives. Today, she remains a wonderful Christian who loves the Lord and only wants to do his will.¹

In Christianity there seem to be two extremes:

- Some see a devil or demon (Greek – *daimonion*) behind every tree, and in every closet. Illustrate – Frank Peretti Books
- Some do not recognize the possibility that spiritual beings are active in the earth.

Passages to consider – Acts 19:13 – 16; Mark 9:14 – 29; John 13:27

Questions People Ask?

- Is there such a thing as demon possession today?

Answer – The Bible mentions demon possession in Revelation referring to the anti-Christ, which is an event in the future so there is no reason to believe that it is not prevalent today.

- Are all lost people possessed with devils?

Answer – No

Explanation – Satan’s kingdom has influence over everyone: saved or lost. The Bible refers to Satan as the god of this world system. He is the commander-in-chief of all devils, and there are many devils ([Revelation 5:11; 12:4](#)). However, I do not think that the Bible teaches that every lost person is possessed. For example, if I am saved, and I have a child that is not yet saved; is that child possessed? I think that God offers a certain degree of protection for the children of saved people. (1 Corinthians 7:12 – 14)

- How does a person become possessed?

Answer – By allowing things into his life that are clearly of the devil. (e.g. music, some movies; Ouija boards, Satanic Bible, etc.) By yielding to rebellion, which is as the sin of witchcraft. Illustrate – Cary Schmidt – music.

- Can a saved person be possessed?

¹ Cymbala, Jim. Fresh Wind, Fresh Fire (pp. 111-112). Zondervan. Kindle Edition.

Answer – No, because a saved person is sealed with the Holy Spirit. (Ephesians 1:13; 4:30)

II The Reaction of the People (vs. 14 – 16)

Note – According to Ryrie: *Beelzebub* means “lord of flies,” a guardian deity of the Ekronites (2 Kings 1:2), but used by the Jews as an epithet for Satan. The name may have been a mocking Hebrew alteration of Baal-Zebul, a local archdemon of northern Palestine and Syria. For Jesus’ enemies to allege that He was possessed by Beelzebub was the worst kind of blasphemy (Mark 3:22).²

- A Most Marveled (v. 14)
- B Some Murmured (v. 15)
- C Some Made Demands (v. 16)

Same crowd; same miracle; same culture. However, some were open to the working of God, and some were very closed - blind

III The Reply of the Lord

The Lord answers the Murmurs in vs. 17 – 26; and then, beginning in v 29, he dealt with those that demanded a sign.

Thoughts from vs. 17 – 23

1 Satan is not going to do something that will weaken his position. He is not going to fight against himself.

2 God can only move into a person’s heart by first removing the strong man that is controlling it. In most of our cases the strong man is your flesh; your will. Your will has to be surrendered to the will of God. Sometimes the flesh of a lost man has already been yielded to one that is stronger (a devil). In that case, if the person is willing to surrender to God, then God will remove the devil (strong man) and will take possession.

Thoughts from 24 – 26

- **Removal** is not enough – there needs to be **replacement**.
- **Reformation** is not enough – there needs to be **transformation**, which only comes through the indwelling Holy Spirit of God.

Conclusion

The devil is real, and though, if you are saved, he cannot possess you, he can still oppress you (affect you), or influence you. Don’t give him an inch in your life.

Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour: (1 Peter 5:8)

Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. (James 4:7)

² Charles Caldwell Ryrie, Ryrie Study Bible: King James Version, Expanded ed. (Chicago: Moody Press, 1994), 1434.