

December 31, 2023 – Pastor Kevin Olivier
Luke 11:14-28 – “The Strong Man Overpowered”

- A. One of the reasons many of us love superhero movies so much is manifold.
- B. Before the coming of Christ, the evil one deceived all the nations of the world except for one people— Israel. God chose to reveal Himself only to the descendants of Abraham.
 - a. As we just celebrated this past Christmas, Jesus was born not only for the saving of the lost sheep of Israel.
 - b. In Lu 2:30f, Simeon took up baby Jesus into his arms and said wonderful things about Him.

Jesus came into the world to overcome the evil one and his reign.	I. JESUS CAME TO OVERPOWER THE DEVIL II. JESUS WARNED THOSE WHO REJECT HIM
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I. JESUS CAME TO OVERPOWER THE DEVIL

- A. The context of this teaching of Jesus came after the unbelieving Jews made a blasphemous claim that Jesus was working by the power of Satan. → vv14-15
 - 1. The crowds of the common Israelites were rightfully amazed at this miracle of Jesus.
 - a. Many of them surely praised God for this mighty work of Jesus.
 - b. After His demonstration of similar signs and wonders, some of the Jews in the crowds questioned if Jesus was the Christ.¹
 - c. In Lu 11:16 “Others, to test Him, were demanding of Him a sign from heaven” when Jesus just showed them a sign from heaven by casting out a demon to cure the mute man.
 - 2. In a parallel passage in Mat 9, this blasphemous accusation came from the Pharisees.²
- B. Jesus used logical arguments to show how foolish their claim was.
 - 1. The first was that it was illogical for Satan’s kingdom to be divided against itself. → vv17-18
 - 2. The second logical argument was that some of the Jews were able to cast out demons. Surely this was not by the by the power of Beelzebul. → v19
 - 3. His third argument was that the kingdom of God was upon them. → v20
- C. Jesus used an encouraging illustration to teach that He overpowered the devil. → vv21-22
 - 1. This strong, armed man who was guarding his house and possessions was the devil.
 - 2. The One who is “stronger than he [who] attacks him and overpowers him” is Jesus.
 - a. In Gen 22:18, God promised Abraham, “In your seed all the nations of the earth shall be blessed.” In Gal 3:16, Paul clarified that this Seed (singular) is Christ.
 - b. Satan, the serpent of old, has already been cast down through Christ. → Rev 12:7-11
 - c. Rev 20:2f, says Satan has been bound, “so that he would not deceive the nations any longer.” That is why the world is no longer steeped in darkness and unbelief as it once was before the coming of Jesus into the world.
 - d. The possessions or plunder taken from Satan’s household are the souls of many nations.

¹ See Jn 7:25-32

² See Mat 9:32f

II. JESUS WARNED THOSE WHO REJECT HIM →v23

A. There is a myth that one can be neutral regarding Jesus and the Christian faith He gave us.

1. Some claim to be spiritual persons; believing in God and country, yet don't express faith in Jesus as their Lord and Savior.
 - a. Mere belief that God exists doesn't save a person.
 - b. Even belief that Jesus died to save sinners in general doesn't save you. One must confess their own sins, endeavor to turn from sin, and confess Jesus as their own Lord and Savior to be saved.
2. This verse also speaks against the "nominal Christian" or the Christian in name only.
 - a. They don't worship or serve Jesus. They are not committed to any church.
 - 1) If a person doesn't care about Christ's body on earth, His church, they don't truly care about Jesus.
 - 2) Our Christian ancestors worshipped in the catacombs of Rome knowing that they could be tortured and killed if caught doing so. Modern, nominal Christians have freedom to worship yet never take the time to do so because of leisure or other non-urgent priorities. They are likely not born again.
 - b. They are not "with" Jesus in any true spiritual union by faith.
 - c. Such people are definitely not gathering others with Christ. Their supposed faith merely scatters abroad.

B. Jesus taught that merely being cleansed of a demon is not sufficient. →vv24-26

1. A modern example is one who leaves a cult yet does not come to saving faith in Christ and then join a true body of Christian believers.
2. Jesus taught in Jn 14:23, **"If anyone loves Me, he will keep My word; and My Father will love him, and We will come to him and make Our abode with him."** In the following verses Jesus taught about the essential work of the Helper, the Holy Spirit .

C. Jesus warned us to have the right priority in our Christian walk. →vv27-28

1. Those in the Roman Catholic religion love v27 yet are not so sure about v28.
2. Dr. Wm. Hendrickson wrote, "Mary's personal blessedness did not consist exclusively or even primarily in the fact that she had given birth to the Messiah but in this, that she had listened carefully to the word of God and had surrendered herself to his will."³

Review, further application, and conclusion:

³ Hendrickson, William *New Testament Commentary: Luke*, p. 635