

Christus Victor Luke 11:14-26

Christ alone has the power to deliver humanity from the dominion of Satan.

1) The Kingdom of God has come upon the Jews in Jesus Christ (11:14-20).

- a) The liberation of the mute man's tongue from demonic oppression is a sign pointing to Christ's liberation of His people from the oppression of all evil.
- b) The mixed response to Jesus (vv. 14-15, marveling, accusing, demanding proof) illustrates the deep divisions in Israel regarding how God's kingdom would come.
- c) Jewish Exorcists ("your sons") at least identified the enemy correctly.
- d) "by the finger of God"—God's power and personal presence
- e) "Kingdom of God has come upon you"—2 senses
- f) Application:
 - i) Don't misdiagnose humanity's problem.
 - ii) Don't misidentify your enemy.

2) Jesus Christ disarms and despoils Satan/satan (11:21-22).

- a) Power of evil over humanity is great (v. 21)—"strong man, fully armed"
- b) Power of Christ is greater (v. 22)—"one stronger than he attacks him and overcomes him"
- c) Evil schemes are a false hope—"armor in which he trusted"
- d) The meek will inherit the earth—"divides his spoil"
- e) Application: Don't pursue the wrong remedy.

3) Jesus warns that there is no neutrality (11:23).

- a) Two kingdoms are in conflict, Satan's Kingdom (v. 18) and the Kingdom of God (v. 20). Apart from Christ, all humans are under the tyranny of the devil (1 John 5:19).
 - i) Most Jews would have seen Rome as the great Satan. Many Jews would have seen themselves as ambassadors for the kingdom of God.
 - ii) Jesus declares that only those who are with Him are in the Kingdom of God.
 - iii) Gathering and scattering parallels "with Me and against Me." Those who are "with" Jesus gather God's people with Him (restoration). Those who are "against" Jesus scatter God's people from Him (exile).
- b) Application: Don't choose the wrong allies for overcoming evil.

4) Mere human solutions to humanity's captivity to evil will fail, because Satan occupies the best of human endeavors apart from Christ Jesus (11:24-26).

- a) "When the unclean spirit has gone out of a person"—humanity left to its own devices
- b) "it passes through waterless places seeking rest and finding none"—Demons cannot be satisfied or at ease unless they are inhabiting and corrupting human persons, institutions, and societies.
- c) "the house swept and put in order"—Rome could boast of a well-ordered society; Herod, the Sadducees, the Pharisees, the Essenes, all had plans for a well-ordered society—apart from Jesus Christ
- d) "the last state of that person is worse than the first"—Humanity apart from Christ is wide open to the vilest corruption.
- e) Application: Don't trust in false "messiahs". Trust Christ, not only for safety from God's judgment, but also for redemption from Satan's tyranny.
 - i) Don't give the devil more or less than his due.
 - ii) Romans 16:20—God will crush Satan under your feet by the grace of Christ!

Doxology:

"Weep no more; behold, the Lion of the tribe of Judah, the Root of David, has conquered, so that He can open the scroll and its seven seals. . . . Worthy are You to take the scroll and to open its seals, for You were slain, and by Your blood You ransomed people for God from every tribe and language and people and nation, and You have made them a kingdom and priests to our God, and they shall reign on the earth."—Revelation 5:5, 9-10