



Who's Living In Your House?

Matthew 12:43-45

My Father Tried to Help His Grown Nephew Get On His Feet—Against His Better Judgment



- He agreed to live with us, but seemingly could never find a job
- Dad and Mom worked all day while he sat in the house eating and watching T.V.
- He made no contributions to help with the bills
- He wanted to use up dad and mom's cars and gasoline!
- It became obvious that he was using my parents like, "a bar of soap!"
- Ultimately, dad had to put him out



What About The House Whose Owner Moved Away?

- Eventually bushes and weeds grow up around it (and in it)
- The grass and yard is consistently unkept
- It begins to look worn because of the weather's effects
- Everybody in the neighborhood knows it's not occupied by the owner
- It begins to be a hangout for drug addicts and vandals

The Context of This Story Is Important

- **Earlier in Matthew 12 verse 22, a demon-possessed man was brought to Jesus**
- **During the time Jesus walked the earth, demons were extremely busy and were allowed to inhabit people**
- **Demons today are busier than ever**
- **How else can we explain some of the unimaginable crimes that go on in our society today? The “mass murder of the month,” is a present reality**
- **In the text, the demon had physically taken away this man’s ability to see and to speak**
- **Jesus drove the demon out of the man and then began the theological debate of the crowd vs the nay-sayers :
The crowd wondered, “Is this the promised Messiah?”
The leaders criticized Jesus, “Well, He must be Satan’s Ambassador!”**

- **Since it was obvious to the Jewish leaders and the crowd that a notable miracle had been performed (the man could now see and speak), Jesus tries to help the leaders by saying in so many words:**

“Does it seem plausible to you that Satan would drive one of his demons out of a person who had invaded the person?” (verses 25-27)

- **“Isn’t it more reasonable to conclude that God’s power in me would be at work in this man?” (remember Nicodemus, the ruler’s, conclusion in John 3:1-2)**
- **Well, Jesus’ miraculous ability was clearly evident but blatantly denied by these Jewish leaders. So, He gives them a “factual analogy,” to show them how corrupt they had become, which is our lesson for today**

Observations



Jesus Uses an Analogy of Describing Certain People as Empty Houses!

- Jesus in this story uses a strange illustration about demon possession to make a very important point about “external repentance”
- He is not giving a “theological discussion” about demon possession as if to say, “let’s talk about evil spirits;” but He discusses the danger of Housing an Evil Spirit
- An unclean spirit (vs 43), is an evil spirit who does evil things
- So, the point is not so much demonic possession (The Exorcist or The Omen, but the presence of evil in a person)
- Some people are not demon-possessed, but *JUST EVIL!*
- The point in the text is this: Evil, if allowed to exist in a person, produces more evil! Evil is not Static, James 1:13-15



**“ There’s
No Place
Like
Home!”**

Jesus says that, “When an unclean spirit is gone out of a man, he walketh through dry places, seeking rest, and finding none.” Matthew 12:43

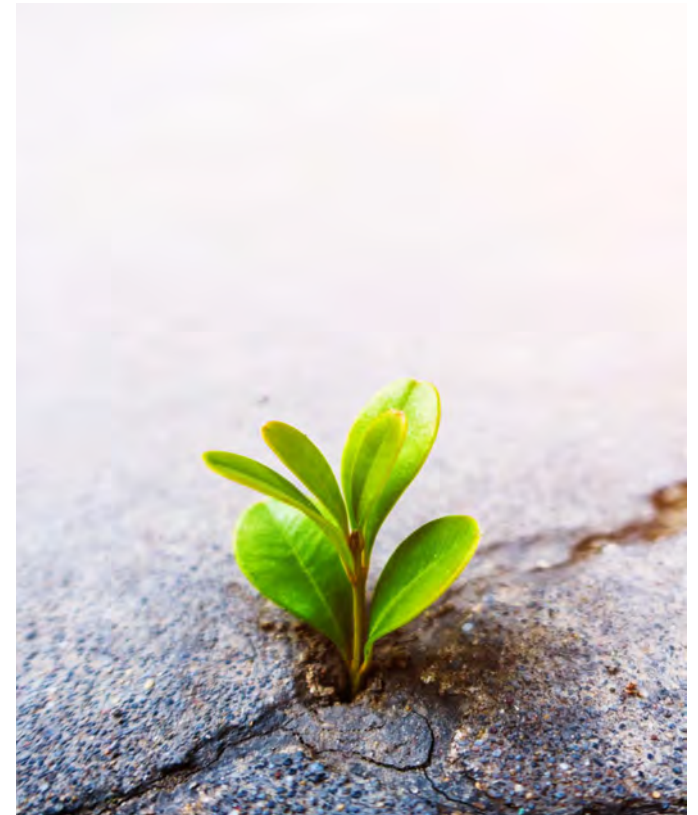
- **When you renounce your sins, through repentance, confession, and baptism (driving evil out); Jesus says that those evil ways or desires or spirits are not as happy outside of you as they were when they were a part of you!**

- Notice that Jesus then says that the devil has the audacity to say, “I’m going to return to the house I left.” (K.J.V. says, “MY HOUSE” vs 44), meaning that he is already claiming ownership of your temple/house
- Remember, Jesus says that evil spirits are happier and more comfortable when dwelling in us than wandering around outside of us. (verse43)
- “Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil walks around like a roaring lion seeking whom he may devour.” 1 Peter 5:8



Be Very Careful When You're in Dry Places, Satan is Looking for You!(Vs 43)

- After walking through difficulties in your life (a chronic illness gets you down, loss of loved one, care taker issues, job loss, spousal disagreements, loneliness)
- Spending too much time in sin and you know that your heart is not in it
- When you sing in worship and feel nothing (when your life is upside-down)
- When you pray but you feel as if you are talking to yourself
- When the communion tray is passed to you and its significance means very little
- When your joy is not there and God seems a thousand miles away



When Satan Comes Back to this Person's House/Heart It Has Three Features:

- It was empty/vacant
- It was swept (looked good)
- It was put in order (new furnishings and decor)
- Remember, Jesus is rebuking the religious leaders who looked like this externally
- But because they hadn't permanently transferred their ownership, their houses/hearts were like this





- If the demon finds the house/heart that he left not occupied/vacant; that is known as “attractive property” for him, vs 45 (report but don’t repent)
- Satan will decide to come back with his associates to take over your house for good this time!
- This is an indictment on the Jewish Leaders and Jesus’ disciples who choose not to change the ownership of their House!
- This is why the Holy Spirit should consistently dwell in you:

“Know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost which is in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own? For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God’s.” 1 Corinthians 6:19-20

Jesus Says That We've Got to Make the Final Determination!

- Jesus is talking about a person who has not sincerely replaced Satan (He/She is playing church)
- Jesus is peeling back the veneer of respectable people who want a “band-aid solution” to their problems in life so that they can keep up their appearances properly
- Christians, Jesus is talking about our failure to deal with the spiritual “vacancy” of our hearts and our refusal to permanently replace Satan with God and thus the inevitable conclusion follows:



Our Final Condition is
Worse Than the First!

“... And the final condition is worse than the first. This is how it will be with this wicked generation.”

Matthew 12:45

- Peter says it like this in
2 Peter 2:20-22,

“For if after they have escaped the pollutions of the world through the knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, they are again entangled therein and overcome, the latter end is worse with them than the beginning.”



2 Peter 2:20-22

... For it had been better for them not to have known the way of righteousness, than, after they had known it, to turn from the holy commandment delivered unto them.

But it is happened unto them according to the true proverb, The dog is turned to his own vomit again; and the sow that was washed to her wallowing in the mire.”





Who Is Living In Your House?

Jesus
Refuses to
Rent Your
House!
Acts 20:28



The Plan of Salvation

Hear the Gospel
Acts 15:7

Believe the Gospel
Acts 15:7

Repent of Sins
Acts 17:30

Confess Christ
Acts 8:37

Be Baptized
Acts 8:38