

Jesus or Beelzebul?

In our text this morning, Luke describes for us the most equivocal, lukewarm response of the crowds to Jesus that we have seen in this gospel. The crowds 'marveled,' or 'wondered.' This is not the 'amazement' or 'astonishment' of the earlier crowds. The measured response to Jesus no doubt had multiple reasons, but the vocal murmurings of 'some' of them give us at least part of the picture.

In Jesus' healing of the mute man, we see...

1. An Illogical Accusation
 - a. Jesus is empowered by Beelzebul?
 - b. Why would Beelzebul attack his own kingdom?

2. An Inconsistent Skepticism
 - a. If Jesus casts out demons by Satan's power...
 - b. How do they know that their disciples are not as well?

3. An Absolute Distinction: Jesus' Response
 - a. Someone owns the house/treasure!
 - b. You are either with Jesus or against him

Application:

1. Do you take Jesus at his word and see in him the coming of God's kingdom?
2. Is your life governed by the strong one or the Stronger One? Who is treasuring you?
3. Are you gathering with Jesus or scattering?