

- 1) Tell us about you, your family, how you ended up overseas, what you do, etc.?
- 2) What's the wildest thing you've seen living in South Asia?
- 3) What does lostness look like in South Asia?
- 4) What challenges exist in your ministry that cause people to miss the gospel all together?

Luke Slide

Luke 11:13

If you then, who are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will the heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him?"

ending to last story...Note what Luke records is not "God is a good father and gives you whatever you want.." he says "Gives the HOLY SPIRIT" to those who ask.

Now he's going to show you why its so important to HAVE the Spirit of God within you.

Here's the truth is borne out by Scripture...you are always controlled by a spirit. The Spirit of God..or the spirit of this world. There is no neutral. ..and its Satanic deception that there is such a thing as neutral.

v14-16

14 Now he was driving out a demon that was mute. When the demon came out, the man who had been mute spoke, and the crowds were amazed. 15 But some of them said, "He drives out demons by Beelzebul, the ruler of the demons." 16 And others, as a test, were demanding of him a sign from heaven.

Ruler of the house, palace- IOW- Demon ruler- funny the Jew
BAAL of the HOUSE

Changed it to Baelzebub- which means ruler of the flies....or Lord of the dung.

Notice 2 groups form- One Group- He's the devil!
Another group- We're gonna need to see some more.

v17-19

17 Knowing their thoughts, he told them, "Every kingdom divided against itself is headed for destruction, and a house divided against itself falls. 18 If Satan also is divided against himself, how will his kingdom stand? For you say I drive out demons by Beelzebul. 19 And if I drive out demons by Beelzebul, by whom do your sons drive them out? For this reason they will be your judges.

Y'all don't make no sense. Why is Satan driving out demons?

Besides- you guys have people that drive out demons- how you know they ain't Satanic.

Whatever you answer- you're in trouble.

Then he asks them to consider the alternative.

v 20

20 If I drive out demons by the finger of God, then the kingdom of God has come upon you.

Finger of God- God's power...but God's power used for what?

Exodus 8:19

19 "This is the finger of God," the magicians said to Pharaoh. But Pharaoh's heart was hard, and he would not listen to them, as the Lord had said.

Deliverance from Slavery- occupation

You see in the desert- they weren't just in slavery- the slavery was in them.

Compassion- you can't just take the child out of poverty- you have to get the poverty out of the child.

Exodus 31:18

18 When he finished speaking with Moses on Mount Sinai, he gave him the two tablets of the testimony, stone tablets inscribed by the finger of God.

The 10 commandments weren't mainly about religious rules- they are a revelation of what God is like- what he loves and rejoices over. What his character is like.

So 2 categories are - Deliverance & Revelation- Remember that.

Luke 11:21-22

**21 When a strong man, fully armed, guards his estate, his possessions are secure.
22 But when one stronger than he attacks and overpowers him, he takes from him all his weapons he trusted in, and divides up his plunder.**

Explain-

v23

23 Anyone who is not with me is against me, and anyone who does not gather with me scatters.

Here's Jesus saying "There is no neutral." You are either with me...or against me. There is not a category of being for me...being a fan...without being a follower.

v24-26

24 "When an unclean spirit comes out of a person, it roams through waterless places looking for rest, and not finding rest, it then says, 'I'll go back to my house that I came from.' 25 Returning, it finds the house swept and put in order. 26 Then it goes and brings seven other spirits more evil than itself, and they enter and settle down there. As a result, that person's last condition is worse than the first."

Demons were understood to go to the desert...Remember Jesus encounters Satan in the wilderness. in the desert.

But get the metaphor.... you try to clean yourself up deliver yourself...understand God through anything or anyone other than Jesus- its going to appear at first like you can do it...but eventually it will be worse for you.

What Jesus is saying is, "The only way to get power to change is if you give yourself over to something."

To change- you have to give yourself over to something. You yield control to something. Something has to possess you.

Something possesses you in order for you to get power to change. Jesus is saying- "Unless it's me, you will find yourself worse off than before."

Let me give you an example:

A little boy crying- hears his father say "Stop Crying." Be man. toughen up! Sure- it could very well be the case that little boy cries too much. And very well might need to toughen up.

But- in that moment- he can cast out his problem- giving himself over to crying for sympathy- and he will replace it with a deep-seated fear of appearing weak.

And he grows up, gets married- having been controlled for 15 years by a spirit of fear of weakness. Well, you can't have a relationship with God and you can't have a good marriage if you can't embrace and own up to your weaknesses.

The second possession was 7 times as bad as the first.

There are a million things to give yourself over to power to solve one problem in your life- that come back creating a much bigger mess.

Trading out pain for pain killers.

Trading out lack of control in your life over eating or under eating or addictive exercise.

Trading out rejection from women for hating women.

Trading out hurt from men by hating men.

Trading out abuse from a parent for abusing your own child.

This is why Jesus is so often saying to the Pharisees and religious rulers of the day- "Its the tax collectors and sinners...its the pimps and the prostitutes...that will see the Kingdom of God before you. Because they have reached the bottom of their attempt at controlling their own lives. They have come to me desperate- wanting to give control of their lives to God.

So I want to finish today by showing you 2 ways the Bible teaches us to look at sin. The attempt to wrestle control of our lives away from God.

Sin as Transgression

to step across a boundary.

Remember the finger of God Jesus references? In Exodus its used to write the 10 commandments. The law of God.

It is both a revelation of who he is- and since humans are created IN HIS IMAGE- it shows us our lives.

In other words- God says "This is how to live inside of the human limitations I created you for" ...and we- to get control- step across those boundaries.

Like crowd that said to Jesus- Give us another sign and then we'll believe you... we say to God- the revelation of who you are is not enough for us. We will remake ourselves! We'll overstep the boundaries you've made.

We hate, we lust, we covet.

And you know how we often try to get control back when all those things don't bring fulfillment?

A popular approach is to create a kind of moral ledger.

You know- I'll outweigh my transgressions with all the ways I play within God's boundaries.

I'll just try to have more Good than Bad.... and then I'll be ok with God. I won't have this guilt. I won't have this brokenness. I'll prove to myself and others...and GOD...that I'm a good person and that I don't deserve judgment.

ILLUS:

Imagine you committed a serious offense. You murdered a 6 year old little girl. Assume that the state has conclusive evidence and you confessed to the crime.

You go to trial- Does the judge declare you innocent or guilty based on looking at all the good you've done in your life vs this one bad thing?

No. That judge wants to know if you have "transgressed the law"

Now- imagine you go to the judge and insist that your good behavior should have the judge declare you not guilty.

In front of the girls parents you say to the judge. "Sure- I killed their daughter. You got me. But I pay my taxes. I volunteer at a homeless shelter. I'm a loving parent. I think my good deeds make up for this bad one. Besides, killing their daughter only took a few minutes. I spend 99.99 percent of my time not murdering children."

It doesn't compute does it? Actually- that might make the whole situation worse because the judge would realize you don't understand the severity of your crime.

If this applies to our imperfect notions of justice...how much more would it apply to a morally perfect God's sense of justice.

Even worse- our attempts to outweigh our bad with our good end up inviting in demonic Pride. Where we look down on others who haven't been as "good" as we are.

The only thing that could possibly save us from God's justice against our transgression- is if somehow- we could legitimately be seen as NOT GUILTY based not on our own works- but on somebody else's- so that we could not be prideful.

Ephesians 2:1-9

And you were dead in your trespasses and sins

2 in which you previously walked according to the ways of this world, according to the ruler of the power of the air, the spirit now working in the disobedient. 3 We too all previously lived among them in our fleshly desires, carrying out the inclinations of our flesh and thoughts, and we were by nature children under wrath as the others were also. 4 But God, who is rich in mercy, because of his great love that he had for us, 5 made us alive with Christ even though we were dead in trespasses. You are saved by grace! 6 He also raised us up with him and seated us with him in the heavens in Christ Jesus, 7 so that in the coming ages he might display the immeasurable riches of his grace through his kindness to us in Christ Jesus. 8 For you are saved by grace through faith, and this is not from yourselves; it is God's gift — 9 not from works, so that no one can boast.

Sin as Slavery

A modern understanding of this could be addiction.

A destructive habit that we are powerless to stop and controls our lives.

Could be in denial, or or know that the sin is killing him.

Imagine someone offered you a million dollars to keep the 10 commandments- Jesus way. No lust, no hate, no coveting. No lying or slander or gossip. Complete trust in God. How long before you sin?

We try hard to break the sin...but keep failing.

That is the language of addiction...slavery. Sin is our master.

And even in the case of addiction- a heroin addict that steals and kills to get money to support his habit is still held responsible in court.

Imagine judge. "Im waving all the charges. You have permanent immunity. Never brought to court for drug charges. Free to go."

Would you be free? No.

Now imagine that man turning around "Your honor- Im so grateful. But please. I've lost everything. Destroyed my family. If you send me back out there..I know i'll end up addicted and dead. Could you find me a place to rehab. I don't just want to be free from the law...I want to be free from my addiction."

He needs more than forgiveness- he needs transformation.

Healing.

John 8:34-36

34 Jesus responded, “Truly I tell you, everyone who commits sin is a slave of sin. 35 A slave does not remain in the household forever, but a son does remain forever. 36 So if the Son sets you free, you really will be free.”

Luke 11:13

If you then, who are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will the heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him? ”

Gospel Invitation

Unless you're possessed by Jesus you will be possessed by something else

What it means to be possessed by Jesus ... To put on the new means that you continually rejoice in who you are in Jesus. You let *that* be the thing that energizes you. This is not as vague as it sounds. In Luke 10:20, Jesus hears his disciples come back, and his disciples say, “We can cast out demons with your power. Even the demons are subject to us.” Jesus is very worried about them. He looks at them and says in Luke 10:20, “Rejoice not that the demons are subject to your name but that your names are written in heaven.”

Here's what he's saying. He's saying, “Do you know what's going on? You're getting self-control, you're getting confidence, your career is on the way up, because you're filling your mind with, you're exulting in, you're glorying in, you're deriving joy from, you're relishing your power. Oh, don't do that,” he says. “It'll crush you. Don't let that energize you.”

Prayer Counselors