

Life and Ministry of Jesus Christ
Casting out Demons
Jesus or Beelzebub – The Folly

Last time...Simon the Pharisee and the woman with many sins

- a lesson in Love and mercy
- a lesson in relationship vs religion

This time...Jesus casting out demons and the blasphemy of the Pharisees –
the folly of their accusation

We will be in Luke 8, Mark 3, and Matt 12

Luke 8

Jesus is on His 2nd Preaching/Teaching tour of the Galilee
He started in Capernaum, went to Nain and to an unnamed city where Simon the Pharisee lived

v1a every city and village:

Jesus is faithfully fulfilling His mission, which started in His hometown of
Nazareth

Luke 4:16-19

A very sweeping record of the tour...“every” city and village
Not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance

John 21:25

We are given what we need to believe that Jesus is the Christ,
the Son of the Living God

v1b-3 the twelve...women:

Jesus had been followed by a multitude in Capernaum and Nain

Those who followed Him on the entire tour of the Galilee were

- the twelve aka “the disciples”
- certain women...NOT 2nd class citizens to the God Who is not a respecter of persons
 - those healed of demon possession...demons cast out of them by One stronger than the demons
 - Mary (Miriam) of Magdala...Sabbath’s day journey from Tiberias, on NW corner of Sea of Galilee
- Joanna
 - wife of Herod Antipas’ treasurer
 - mother of the son of the nobleman from Capernaum Jesus healed when in Cana in John 4:46-54?
- Susanna
- many other women
 - ministered to Jesus from their material substance/wealth... their lives a living sacrifice

Now it seems the scene shifts back to Capernaum

When studying the Life and Ministry of Jesus Christ, it is difficult to connect all the details in the 4 Gospels, but we can discern an outline into which most of the details do fit

Mark 3

v20-21 multitude...His friends:

With another multitude, which includes Jesus’ friends/kinsmen/family, it seems Jesus is back in Capernaum, His ministry HQ

Due to the great number of people who came to

- to hear Jesus preach and teach
- to hear what Jesus said and did in all the other cities and villages
- seeking Jesus’ touch to heal their infirmities, physical and spiritual

and the pressing nature of their need and desire,

neither Jesus nor His followers had the opportunity to eat and refresh themselves

When Jesus' friends/kinsmen/family heard of this scene, they went to "rescue" Him from the pressures of the demanding multitude and their endless, overwhelming needs by insisting the crowd back off because Jesus is so tired and in such need of refreshment that He is at wits ends

Was the family of Jesus correct in their assessment of the situation?

Yes...Jesus is 100% Man, Who did tire and needed to eat and sleep
Jesus is but one Man (why it was expedient for Him to leave and send the Holy Spirit)

No...Jesus is 100% God, Whose food was to do the will of His Father, including Matt 8:16-17
The God of Israel is never at wits end or "beside Himself"

But His family did not grasp the completeness of His Identity/Person... until after His resurrection

They saw thru a glass darkly and knew in part, and acted according to what they thought was the best interest of Jesus

Now into this scene

- Luke 7:21 cured many of infirmities and plagues and of evil spirits while on His tour of Galilee
 - Jesus being followed around Galilee by those who had been demon possessed (Luke 8:1-3)
 - a great multitude of people pressing onto Jesus to hear and be healed
- we go to Matt 12:22 (a more detailed account of Mark 3:22-27)

Matt 12

v22-23 brought to Him one possessed with a devil:

Yet another soul suffering the greatest of oppressions...demon possession...
is desperately brought to Jesus.
And Jesus...healed him.

Easy breezy...with merely His spoken Word because

- Jesus is stronger than the devil, any number of devils, and all devils
- His power FAR surpasses the power of demons
(whose power far surpasses ours/man's)

The multitude pressing in on Jesus

- is amazed...no man has had this power, not even the Pharisees
- wonders if Jesus was the Messiah, the Son of David
(as promised by God in 2 Sam 7:12-16)

After all He has said and done, this is the very first time Jesus has been called
“the son of David”, a messianic title

Why now?

Sometime prior to the birth of Jesus, the rabbis separated miracles into 2
categories.

1. those miracles anyone would be able to perform if the Spirit of the
LORD empowered them to do so.
2. messianic miracles, which **only** the Messiah would be able to
perform...those of Is 35:4-6

Casting out demons was not all that unusual in the Jewish world of that day.

The Pharisees and rabbis had the ability of casting out demons.

But casting out demons within the framework of Pharisaic Judaism required one
to use a specific ritual with three stages.

1. the exorcist would have to establish communication with the demon
2. the exorcist would then have to find out the demon's name
3. after finding out the demon's name he could, by use of that name,
cast the demon out.
e.g. Jesus casting out “Legion” in Mark 5

But there was one kind of demon that caused the person possessed/controlled to be mute.

Since he could not speak, there was no way of establishing communication with this kind of a demon, no way of finding out this demon's name.

So within the framework of Judaism, it was impossible to cast out a mute demon.

The rabbis taught that when the Messiah came, He would be able to cast out this type of demon.

Therefore, Jesus' casting out of the mute demon here raised quite a stir!

A stir not raised previously when Jesus cast out other demons

Did Jesus correct them?

No, for they were quite correct.

Jesus is meeting the requirements of the Messiah for His is the Messiah!

v24 when the Pharisees heard it:

Also alerted to the stir that continues to swell around the immensely popular Jesus...and now His performing of a Messianic miracle...

were the Pharisees...and they came down (elevation) from Jerusalem to assess the situation (Mark 3:22)

They opposed John the Baptist ([Matt 11:18](#)) who testified of Jesus

Note: Jesus reminded John (etc) of Is 35:4-6 to restore his faith in Him

They opposed Jesus ([Matt 11:19](#))

They cannot deny the miracles of Jesus...the raising of the dead son of the widow of Nain and now the casting out of a mute demon foremost among them

They had to "believe" the miracles so they had to determine by what power He did the things He did

They witnessed the people flocking to Him, searching Him out, listening to Him

They were

- envious of Jesus
- jealous of Jesus
- threatened by Jesus

They have repeatedly seen Jesus cast demons out of people by merely speaking

They know some of Jesus' entourage have had demons cast out of them by Him

They had to "believe" the miracles...but they did not believe in Jesus, that He was the Christ/Messiah

So, their determination of by what power Jesus did these things, including the casting out of demons, is that it is by the power of Satan/Lucifer

They concluded that Jesus was a sorcerer and, per the Law, must die

- Lev 19:31 Regard not them that have familiar spirits, neither seek after wizards, to be defiled by them: I *am* the LORD your God.
- Lev 20:6 And the soul that turneth after such as have familiar spirits, and after wizards, to go a whoring after them, I will even set my face against that soul, and will cut him off from among his people.
- Deut 18:9-12 When thou art come into the land which the LORD thy God giveth thee, thou shalt not learn to do after the abominations of those nations. There shall not be found among you *any one* that maketh his son or his daughter to pass through the fire, *or* that useth divination, *or* an observer of times, or an enchanter, or a witch, Or a charmer, or a consulter with familiar spirits, or a wizard, or a necromancer. For all that do these things *are* an abomination unto the LORD: and because of these abominations the LORD thy God doth drive them out from before thee.

When they heard the question/testimony of the people (v23), they rejected it and told the people, “This man casts out devils by the power of Beelzebub, prince of the devils!”

Beelzebub = Beel + zebub
 = Baal (god of the Phoenicians and Jezebel) + insect
 = lord of the flies
 = Satan

“His power is not of God, it is of Satan!
 He is not the Son of David, He is the son of the devil!
 He represents not the Kingdom of God but the kingdom of darkness!”

The opposition of the Pharisees against Jesus takes an ominous turn here...
 that leads all the way to the Cross
 They believe that in opposing Jesus they are opposing Satan
 A step along the way from here to the Cross – John 8:42-59

The ministry of Jesus Christ has arrived at a turning point...
 henceforth Jesus no longer teaches directly, He teaches in parables

Beginning right now

v25 Every kingdom...city or house:

When Jesus heard not only what they were saying but also what they were thinking, He called them over to Him and spoke to them in parables (Mark 3:23):

“Every” (no exceptions)

- kingdom
- city
- house/family

divided against itself

- disunited
- opposing itself, one part seeking the destruction of the other
- embroiled in a state of confusion and chaos

shall not, cannot, stand/continue.”

- will self-destruct

v26 how then shall his kingdom stand:

“Divided against itself” is true in the physical realm,
and it is true in the spiritual realm

Therefore, since v25 is true, if Satan, the enemy of God, casts out Satan,
his kingdom will fall

- implode...without any “assistance”/opposition from God
- self-destruct...a counter-productive strategy to his stated objective (“5 I wills” of Is 28)

A divided kingdom will be laid waste and desolate...by itself

Jesus is telling the Pharisees that what they said in v24 is pure folly

(In v31 He will tell them what they said was pure wickedness)

v27 if I by Beelzebub...your children:

“If I, by the power of Satan and not the power of God, cast out devils,
how do you ‘do’ it?!”

David and Saul in 1 Sam 16:13-13 contradicts the Pharisees’ “analysis”

v13 Then Samuel took the horn of oil, and anointed him in the
midst of his brethren: and the Spirit of the LORD came
upon David from that day forward.

v14 But the Spirit of the LORD departed from Saul, and an evil
spirit from the LORD troubled him.

v23 And it came to pass, when the *evil* spirit from God was
upon Saul, that David took a harp, and played with his
hand: so Saul was refreshed, and was well, and the evil
spirit departed from him.

Casting out demons was not all that unusual then
Even the Pharisees and rabbis did

So, Jesus was saying to the Pharisees,

“If casting out demons is a sign of sorcery/satanic activity,

- what are you going to do with David?
- why don’t you similarly charge your own disciples —
for they profess to do the same thing?”

Jesus trapped them in their own accusation

The tables have been turned on the hypocrites, His enemies confounded

v28 But...Spirit of God...kingdom of God:

Having openly displayed the folly of the blasphemous accusation of the Pharisees (v24), Jesus sets the record straight with the wisdom of God and what we call Boolean logic

- all values are reduced to either TRUE or FALSE
- binary

But contrary to v24-27...v24 is False

If I cast out devils by the (power of) the Spirit of God

Then what is True is the kingdom of God has come to you
(as He has faithfully been preaching, Luke 8:1)

v29 how...strongman's house...except he first bind:

“Besides, how can someone enter a strongman's house/family and spoil/plunder/seize/ clean out his goods/vessels unless he first binds/ties up/neutralizes the strongman?
Then he will spoil his house...cast out demons.”

The subject of these passages in Luke 8, Mark 3, and Matt 12 is:
Jesus Christ – His Person, His power, His Messiahship

The object in these passages whereby the Person, power, and Messiahship of Jesus is revealed:
the casting out of demons

The lesson for us this morning: Person or Power?

Who can cast out demons?

During the ministry of Jesus Christ

Mark 9:38 And John answered him, saying, Master, we saw one casting out devils in thy name, and he followeth not us: and we forbade him, because he followeth not us

(in Jesus' name, NOT Beelzebub's)

“After” the ministry of Jesus Christ...and to this day

John 14:12 Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that believeth on me, the works that I do shall he do also; and greater *works* than these shall he do; because I go unto my Father

John 16:7 Nevertheless I tell you the truth; It is expedient for you that I go away: for if I go not away, the Comforter will not come unto you; but if I depart, I will send him unto you

John 20:21-22 Then said Jesus to them again, Peace *be* unto you: as *my* Father hath sent me, even so send I you. And when he had said this, he breathed on *them*, and saith unto them, Receive ye the Holy Ghost

Eph 1:13-14 In whom ye also *trusted*, after that ye heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation: in whom also after that ye believed, ye were sealed with that Holy Spirit of promise, Which is the earnest of our inheritance until the redemption of the purchased possession, unto the praise of his glory

Luke 24:49 and Acts 1:8

Mark 16:15-18

Acts 16:16-18

1 John 4:4 in these “fierce” times (2 Tim 3:1)
It is by the power of Jesus Christ...His name/authority

The Pharisees later would imitate (compete with) Jesus and His followers

Acts 19:13-16

men do to this day...who believe the miracles but do not believe in Jesus

Matt 7:21-23

His power/name/authority can be “exercised” by

- believers
- unbelievers

Using the name of Jesus does not equate with believing/trusting in Jesus

The issue for all eternity is not Jesus’ power, it is Him...Personally
Still and always needed for salvation from eternal death, the wages of sin:

Jesus Christ the Messiah...

personal relationship vs religion

His payment/sacrifice/merit/righteousness...and His alone!

This week, the folly of v24

Next week, the wickedness of v24

Blasphemy of the Holy Spirit

The Unpardonable Sin

Let's gather in small groups to pray...in agreement with, in one accord with our Father...
to let the Holy Spirit write these words on our hearts and to transform our lives

Closing Song