

CTW: Psalm 65

Reading: Luke 11:14-23

AGD: I've been wondering if the drought and the presidential elections have anything in common--I guess it depends on who or what you attribute it to. Some people attributed this miracle to the work of Beelzebul. We are so easily confused, confounded and deceived.

Jesus removed a mute demon and allowed a man to speak.

- Demons have power. Jesus has more (infinitely more).
- Satan uses his power to bind. Jesus uses His power to liberate (from sin, death, bondage)

People marveled, attributed it to Beelzebub and others refused to be convinced—seeking another sign

- Different responses because of different hearts
- What does your mind attribute things to?

Jesus spoke of divided kingdoms and exorcism to show the folly of their thinking.

- Sophisticated as it may be a lie falls apart when examined by truth and reason
- Also, reveals their hearts (jealous, fearful/greedy, selfish, etc)
- Jesus said a divided kingdom can't stand

Jesus also plainly told them what happened—He is authorized to use the power of God ("finger of God") and it proves the Kingdom of God is breaking into the world.

- Finger of God—not much effort on God's part
- Demonstration of God's activity

He explains that a strong person can defend his possessions unless a stronger one overcomes him. His treasures are then divided.

- Satan is the "strong man" and Jesus is the even stronger one
- Beelzebub is the "master of the house" but Jesus is the real Master of the House

CLOSE

Jesus is dividing Satan's house

What about God's Kingdom—can it be divided? Is the Church dividing God's Kingdom?

"Whoever, is not with me is against me, and whoever does not gather with me scatters." Those words are attributed to Jesus

We can't find our way without an absolute, external, knowable truth

Jesus knows who is for Him and who is against. He can tell if we gather or scatter..

1. **All Religions the Same?** More and more people believe all faiths are worshipping the same God. There are common elements but the only reason such comparisons can be made is because so many Christians have a casual, cafeteria faith. Casual in terms of its effect on their lives and cafeteria in regard to each of us picking and choosing which things we find acceptable.
  - a. Want to believe sex outside of marriage is ok? We got room for that. Want to have God sanction abortions of convenience? We can move some things around for you. Need enough flexibility so that church and worship are things that you do when it suits you then we can accommodate you.
  - b. The truth is that there really is an absolute truth. We may not always be able to comprehend it but then again maybe if we lived what we already know to be true then our comprehension of truth would grow also.
  - c. When Jesus was talking of the persecution to come, when the world will no longer tolerate the children of God
2. **The Worlds Moral Confusion.** Jesus' miracle was attributed to Beelzebub
  - a. Why would they think Jesus was working with Today, people don't believe in Jesus or Satan or even evil. Evil has been relegated to Hitler. Even Mao and Stalin have had their reputations polished. But day to day evil: Lying, stealing, lust, greed? Those don't even register as sinful to a people who have abandoned God.
  - b. We've lost an understanding of sinfulness
3. Compass, sextant and maps are useless without an external frame of reference

CLOSE Beelzebub means "master of the house"

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