

Possession

Matthew 12:43-45

Introduction:

- We must get our ideas about the spirit world from the Bible because it is the reliable record of God's r_____ to us.
 1. Satan and evil spirits
 - a. They are r_____
 - b. They were created good, but s_____ (2 Pet 2:4)
 2. Demon possession
 - a. Jesus cast out demons _____
 - b. The a_____ cast out demons (Matt 10:8)
 - c. The ____ chosen by Jesus cast out demons (Lk 10:17)
 - d. The sons of the P_____ cast out demons (Matt 12:27)
 - e. Some e_____ workers will vainly defend themselves on Judgment day by saying that they cast out demons in Jesus's name (Matt 7:22).
 3. Recognizing demon possession
 - a. Some could read most accounts of demon possession in such a way that most people did not recognize it unless they were t_____ by the apostles or Jesus (e.g. Matt 17:14-16 with Mk 9:18; Matt 5:24; 8:16)
 - b. Demon possession was clearly recognized by the sons of the Pharisees and a G_____ woman (Matt 15:22,23).
 - c. Some demon possession is und_____ (Acts 16:17,18).
- Today we are going to learn a few truths about possession

An unholy spirit can inhabit a p_____ body (v. 43)

- The point that Jesus is making
 1. *That is the way it will also be with this evil generation* (v. 45c)
 - a. The first state of the man was that he was possessed by an unclean s_____.
 - b. The last state of the man was that he was possessed by seven more spirits more w_____ than the one that had possessed him.
 - c. Likewise that generation will become w_____.
 2. Does not render the illustration as f_____
- The progression of the illustration
 1. Jesus opens with a general t_____ - *Whenever an unclean spirit goes out of a person.*

2. Demons are invisible to us and so Jesus tell us what they tend to do – *it passes through waterless places seeking r_____* (they tend to inhabit something)
- Some people i_____ demons to possess them
 1. M_____ do this (see 1 Sam 28:7; Lev 20:6)
 2. The pastor did this as a c_____.
- Most are demon possessed against their w_____ (this seems to be the case with all those Jesus dealt with).

An unholy spirit cannot inhabit a b_____’s body (44)

- The progression of the illustration continued
 1. The hypothetical situation
 - a. The demon cannot find rest and so goes back to the original body it owned - *my h_____*
 - b. The demon finds his “house” un_____, swept, and in order
 - c. The demon finds 7 other spirits more w_____ than himself to inhabit the body.
 2. Then the point of the illustration is given – just as the last state of the man was worse than the first, so it will be with *this evil generation*.
- Possession and true believers in Christ
 1. A believer’s body is occupied by the H_____ Spirit (1Cor 6:19)
 2. An evil spirit cannot s_____ that space with the Holy Spirit (2Cor 6:14)
 3. Believers are God’s p_____ because of the Holy Spirit who indwells them.
 - a. This does not exempt us from being t_____ or even bothered by demons. In fact, this is our struggle (Eph 6:12).
 - b. However, Satan nor his demons can t_____ us (1Jn 5:18)

Conclusion:

- The Holy Spirit occupies our body and o_____ us believers.
- The Holy Spirit gives us a choice to give c_____ to Him.
- If we choose to, He will e_____ us to live.

Let the Holy Spirit clean up your mess and give order to your life.