

## 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.*