

Luke 11:14-20

¹⁴ One day Jesus was driving out a demon that was mute. And when the demon was gone, the man who had been mute spoke. The crowds were amazed, ¹⁵ but some of them said, “It is by Beelzebul, the prince of the demons, that He drives out demons.” ¹⁶ And others tested Him by demanding a sign from heaven.

¹⁷ Knowing their thoughts, Jesus said to them, “Every kingdom divided against itself will be laid waste, and a house divided against a house will fall. ¹⁸ If Satan is divided against himself, how can his kingdom stand? After all, you say that I drive out demons by Beelzebul. ¹⁹ And if I drive out demons by Beelzebul, by whom do your sons drive them out? So then, they will be your judges. ²⁰ But if I drive out demons by the finger of God, then the kingdom of God has come upon you.

Berean Study Bible

1

Luke 11:14-20

Outward antagonism. 14-16 “some of them said”

Some are amazed. 14 “amazed”

Some are angry. 15 “demons... demons”

Some are aggressive. 16 “demanding”

Inward attitude. 17-19 “Knowing their thoughts”

Principle. 17 “kingdom divided...”

Practice. 18 “If Satan is divided...”

Problem. 19 “by whom do your sons...”

Eternal answer. 20

The power of the finger of God. 20a “finger of God”

The presence of the Kingdom of God. 20b “Kingdom of God”

2

You can't please all the people all the time. Luke 11:14-20

Have realistic expectations of people. 14-16

Some people are consumers. 14a “man who had been mute”

Some people are spectators. 14b “crowds were amazed”

Some people are sceptical. 15 “by Beelzebul”

Some people are aggressive. 16 “demanding a sign”

Have realistic expectations of the spiritual realm. 17-20

There is strength in unity. 17-18a “a house divided... will fall”

There is unity in consistency. 18b-19 "If I... then by whom..."
There is consistency in God. 20 "finger of God... kingdom of God"
There is God in me. 20b "...of God has come upon you"

3

God's finger is bigger than Satan's fist. Luke 11:14-20

Key words: 20. "I drive out demons by the finger of God" – Satan wants / Jesus wants

Be aware, but not alarmed, by Satan. 11:14-16

Satan may cause physical harm. 14 "a demon that was mute"

Satan may cause personal stagnation. 14b "crowds were amazed"

Satan may cause intellectual confusion. 15 "It is by Beelzebul"

Satan may cause spiritual blindness. 16 "sign from heaven"

Be aware, and excited, by Jesus. 11:17-20

Jesus may bring physical healing. 14 "Jesus was driving out..."

Jesus may bring interpersonal harmony. 17-18 "kingdom divided..."

Jesus may bring intellectual robustness. 19 "If I... then by whom..."

Jesus may bring completeness. 20 "the kingdom of God has come"

4

Realistic expectations. Luke 11:14-20

Have realistic expectations of the human realm. 14-16

Expect people to be touched by God. 14 "Jesus was driving out a demon"

Expect people to be happy for others. 14b "crowds were amazed"

Expect people to misunderstand God. 15 "It is by Beelzebul"

Expect people to fail to see God. 16 "demanding a sign from heaven"

Have realistic expectations of the spiritual realm. 17-20

Expect God to be a Warrior. 18b, 19a, 20a "I drive out demons"

Expect God to have an army. 19 "your sons drive them out"

Expect God to triumph. 18b, 19a, 20a "I drive out demons"

Expect God to reign. 20b "Kingdom of God has come"

5

Boot camp for believers. Luke 11:14-26

There is a war raging around us. Be alert but not alarmed. Luke 11:14-26

Train. And trust your training. 2 Timothy 2:15 "Study to show yourself approved"

The enemy is dangerous. Protect your team. 1 Pet.5:8 "lion seeking to devour"

We are under attack. Wear your body armour. Ephesians 6:10-18 “armour of God”
The weapons are in our hands. Be active. 2 Corinthians 10:3-5 “pulling down strongholds”
Follow orders. Be obedient to the plan. John 10:15 “Obey my commands”
God’s victory is certain. Be optimistic. Revelation 20:10 “Devil cast into the Lake of Fire”

6

War in Heaven. War on earth. Luke 11:14-26

God won the open warfare in Heaven

Failed coup d'état against the King. Isaiah 14:12-15

Failed revolution against the King. Revelation 12:4, 7-9

God is winning the guerrilla warfare on earth

Understand the practices of spiritual warfare. 14-16

Satan is overthrown one nest at a time. 14 “a demon... the demon”

People will misinterpret spiritual issues. 14-15 “amazed... it is by...”

People are sinful and self-centred. 16 “tested... demanding”

Understand the principles of spiritual warfare. 17-20

Kingdoms are in conflict. 17-18 “kingdom... house...”

God can use anyone. 19 “your sons drive them out”

God’s Kingdom is here to stay. 20 “the kingdom of God has come”

7

Different problems require different solutions. Luke 11:14-20

Satan creates different problems. 14-16

Problems from evil spirits. 14 “a demon... the demon”

Problems from blind minds. 15 “It is by... that He...”

Problems from hard hearts. 16 “tested... demanding”

God creates different solutions. 17-20

Jesus offers solutions to evil spirits. 17-19 “I drive out demons”

Jesus offers solutions to blind minds. 17-19 “Knowing... said... if... how... if... So...”

Jesus offers solutions to hard hearts. 20 “Kingdom of God”

8

The normal Christian life. Luke 11:14-20

Key words: 20 “the kingdom of God has come upon you.”

It is normal for Satan to be cast out.

Demons are cast out by Jesus. 14 “Jesus was driving out a demon”

Demons are cast out by believers. 19 “your sons drive them out”
“the kingdom of God has come upon you.”

It is normal for people to not commit.

People are normally consumers. 14a “the man who had been mute spoke”
People are normally spectators. 14b “The crowds were amazed”
“the kingdom of God has come upon you.”

It is normal to get push-back.

People are unable to understand. 15 “It is by Beelzebul”
People are unable to see. 16 “demanding a sign from heaven”
“the kingdom of God has come upon you.”

9

Take a stand, or be stood on. Luke 11:14-20

Stand on something bigger than yourself. (From the past)
Stand on the facts of Scripture. (Bible is historical fact)
Stand on the facts of the Spirit. (Spirits show to have effects)

Stand with someone bigger than yourself. (In the present)
Stand with Jesus. He has greater knowing. (Trust Him)
Stand with Jesus. He has greater doing. (Follow Him)

Stand for something bigger than yourself. (For the future)
Stand for the finger of God. (Godly actions)
Stand for the Kingdom of God. (God’s presence)

10

Fight the Good Fight. Luke 11:14-20

There are only two spiritual realms. “Kingdom of God” & principality of Satan
Each spiritual realm is united in itself. 18 “If... divided... how...”
The spiritual realms are at war. 19 “drive them out”
The Kingdom of God is stronger. 20 “Kingdom of God has come”

11

What a spiritual battle looks like. Luke 11:14-20

The people of the world are unwittingly part of the battle.
People can be agnostic. 14 “crowds were amazed”
People can be antagonistic. 15 “It is by Beelzebul”

People can be aggressive. 16 “demanding a sign”

The people of Jesus are consciously part of the battle.

Jesus is continuously generous. 14 “driving out a demon”

Jesus is intellectually challenging. 17 “Knowing their thoughts, said”

Jesus is factually decisive. 20 “the kingdom of God has come

12

Jesus only cast out evil spirits. This is a friendly spirit. Wrong! Luke 11:14-16

All spirits were created as angels.

One third of spirits rejected God as their Lord.

All spirits are deceptive.

Spirits fool people into false beliefs: ghosts, UFOs, evolution.

Spirits fool people into false hope: talk to dead, tell the future.

The desire of spirits is for you to live ignoring God.

Jesus, and the apostles, cast out every spirit.

I am to be the temple of the Holy Spirit.

God is jealous and will not share His glory (I am His glory!)

13

Principles of spiritual warfare. Luke 11:14-16

Principle 1. Jesus always wins. Satan always loses. 14a “Jesus was driving out a demon”

Jesus cast out every demon He confronted.

Principle 2. Satan always does harm. 14 “demon was mute... man was mute”

Satan may harm physically. Luke 13:11,16 “bound by a spirit ...by Satan”

Satan may harm intellectually. 2 Corinthians 11:3 “minds corrupted”

Satan may harm emotionally. Revelation 12:9 “deceives”

Satan will harm spiritually. 2 Corinthians 4:4 “blinded the minds”

Principle 3. Spiritually dead people often respond badly to the Gospel. 14-16

Some people are agnostic. 14 “crowds were astonished”

Some people are anti-theistic. 15 “It is by Beelzebul”

Some people are aggressive. 16 “demanding a sign”

All people need to repent.

Principle 4. Christianity is the smartest way to fight. 18-19

Jesus demands intellectual rigor. 18 “If... how... and how... and if... by...”

God can use anyone. 19 “your sons”

Principle 5. Jesus always wins. Satan always loses. 20

God’s finger is bigger than Satan’s fist. 20a “drive out... by the finger of God”

God’s Kingdom is here to stay. 20b “the Kingdom of God has come”

Other possible titles

Good governance
Sitting on the fence is uncomfortable
When good is bad, and bad is good
Is it from God, or Satan, or...
Spiritual warfare
Winning life's battles
Always on the winning team
Breaking strongholds
Hell-o-ween
Black or white?
Heaven vs Hell, on earth.
I reject your reality and substitute my own.
Are you taking friendly fire?
God is pointing the finger. At you?
Is this evil from God or Satan?
How can God allow evil people to do awful things to innocent children?
The devil made me do it.
Sin is the virus. Is the COVID-19 virus, sin?

Quotes and illustrations

For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the powers, against the world forces of this darkness, against the spiritual forces of wickedness in the heavenly places. (Ephesians 6:12)

“the Son of God appeared for this purpose, that He might destroy the works of the devil” (1 John 3:8)

Woe to those who call evil good and good evil, who put darkness for light and light for darkness, who put bitter for sweet and sweet for bitter. (Isaiah 5:20)

But since the adversary does not cease to resist many, and uses many and diverse arts to ensnare them, that he may seduce the faithful from their faith, and that he may prevent the faithless from believing, it seems to me necessary that we also, being armed with the invulnerable doctrines of the faith, do battle against him in behalf of the weak. Justin Martyr

The nature of the enemy's warfare in your life is to cause you to become discouraged and to cast away your confidence. Not that you would necessarily discard your salvation, but you could give up your hope of God's deliverance. The enemy wants to numb you into a coping kind of Christianity that has given up hope of seeing God's resurrection power. Bob Sorge

Men may spurn our appeals, reject our message, oppose our arguments, despise our persons, but they are helpless against our prayers. J. Sidlow Baxter

Take God at His Word – because winning the battle doesn't require physical brawn, but spiritual brains! Pedro Okoro

Temptation is not his (Satan's) strongest weapon. Despair is. Dennis Garvin

If you want to fight hell and the power of darkness that seek to destroy the hearts of our daughters, I know a type of spiritual warfare that creates value in a daughter's spirit. It is called "Taking your Daughter out for tea" or "Going to Her Soccer Game", and it works in direct opposition to the agenda of hell and darkness that wants to destroy their lives. Jim Anderson

...sometimes we act as though God is obligated to make all our dreams come true and give a happy ending to every earthbound tale. We use verbiage like 'God is head over heels in love with you!' so much that we forget we live in a war zone, where live ammunition flies through the air and casualties still happen. And when we're one of the casualties, the feelings that flood in cause us to either doubt ourselves and whether we heard God correctly (since if we had, wouldn't we be out of prison?), or we doubt the goodness, love, or even the very existence of God Himself. Sheila Walsh

Satan hates you. But for the most part, he pays you no mind as long as you are entangled in sin and struggling with shame. Wendy Speake

Commentary

Beelzebul. Luke 11:15, 18, 19

Beelzebul (sometimes spelled Beelzebub), comes from the name Baal, a Canaanite god. Bul is the Hebrew word for "house, high place, temple" (1 Kings 8:13; Isaiah 63:15). So Beelzebul means "god of the high place." However, the Hebrews may have purposely corrupted Beelzebul, as a sign of derision, into the word into Beelzebub, meaning "Lord of the flies" or "god of filth."

By Jesus' day, Beelzebul or Beelzebub had become a reference Satan. When Jesus' success at exorcism was attributed to being empowered by Satan, the prince of demons. This is gross blasphemy and slander.

Finger of God. Luke 11:20

"if I cast out demons by the finger of God, then the kingdom of God has come upon you."

The finger of God may be a reference to 'the Law of the Lord'. The Lord personally wrote His Law on stone. "When the Lord finished speaking to Moses on Mount Sinai, he gave him the two tablets of the Testimony, the tablets of stone inscribed by the finger of God" (Exodus 31:18).

The finger of God may be a reference to 'hardness of heart'. After the Third Plague on Egypt, the Plague of Gnats, "The magicians said to Pharaoh, 'This is the finger of God.' But Pharaoh's heart was hard and he would not listen, just as the Lord had said." (Exodus 8:19).

Music and songs

Songs about the power or victory of God

All hail King Jesus. 237 / SiS 219
Amazing love [You are my King]. Ot 8
Ascribe greatness to our God, the Rock. 331
Be exalted O God. SiS 396
Chain breaker. Ot 72
Great in power.
How Great is our God. 1020
How majestic is Your Name. 437
In Christ alone. Ot 4
Look what God is doing (SWBrown)
The battle belongs to the Lord. SiS 630
The greatness of our God (Newsboys)
The power and the glory of Your Name. Ot 24
The power of Your love. 621
This Kingdom.

Songs about the victory of believers

Be bold. Be strong. 465
Be still and know that I am God. 114
Be still for the presence of the Lord. 527
Because He lives. MP 52
Fear not. SiS 505
Go forth in His name (Kendrick). 72
I'm a conqueror and victorious.
Lord I lift Your Name on high. 736
My Deliverer.
The Lord is the strength of my life. Ot 86
Through our God we shall do valiantly. SiS 320
Victory chant (Hail Jesus). SiS 650
We are a people of power. SiS 652
We are His people. Ot 6
We are marching. 734
You can trust Him. Ot 92
You rescued me. Ot 45

Songs of cries to God

Hear my cry oh God attend unto my prayer.
I go to the Rock.
I will run to You. 802
O the mercy of God.
Reach out to Jesus. CWH2
Still (Hide me now). 1003

Thought starters for private reflection, or group discussion

1. What would you find most difficult if you were mute (unable to vocalise any sound)?
 2. Every time Jesus confronted an evil spirit, He cast it out. What are some personal applications we need to learn from His actions?
 3. If you had just one sentence that you could say before you became permanently mute, what would be your last words to your family?
 4. In v14-16 people misinterpreted Jesus' actions. Which people are most likely to misunderstand your faith and your faith-based actions?
 5. Why do you think a verbal expression of our faith ("you will be My witnesses") is important to God, and to those without faith?
 6. Jesus said it was "by the finger of God" He overcame demons (v20). What are three things you learn from that statement?
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