

One Stronger than He

Luke: All Things New



Series Goal

That Mercy Hill Church would be made new as we follow the One who is making all things new!



Sermon Text

Luke 11:14-28



Big Idea

Jesus has come as one stronger than Satan. His activity is by God's finger. His presence is a manifestation of God's kingdom. He is able to rescue us. He is able to reorder what's gone wrong with us. But we must turn to Him in faith and let Him in.

(1) The Restoration of a Man (vv. 14)

How this demon came to be so I do not claim to know, but I do think there is an interesting implication in all of this. And that is this: When you have been playing with the devil, you will come to look like him. You will take on his image, his qualities, and they are not flattering. In the same way that those who behold the glory of God in the face of Christ will find themselves being conformed into His image from one degree of glory to the next (2 Cor 3:18), so too those who have fallen under sway of the Satanic, the demonic, will find themselves being distorted into their image from one degree of depravity to the next. The demon was mute, so the man was mute.

(2) The Response of a Crowd (vv. 15-16)

Some of us like to think that the reason we are holding back on Christ, the reason we aren't ready to go all in with Jesus is because we don't have enough evidence yet. If and when we got the evidence, well then surely we'd be ready to make a decision. But that is simply not the case. Such an opinion severely underestimates the corrupting sway of our fallen natures, grossly overestimates the capacity and supposed objectivity of our native faculties, and blatantly contradicts what we see so clearly in this text: namely, no amount of evidence will ever be enough for the person who is committed to unbelief. There is always a way to interpret reality in line with your biases.

(3) The Reasoning of a King (vv. 17-23)

(1) Faith Accords with Reason—Our faith has good reason and their reasons require much faith.

(2) Unbelief Runs Deeper than Logic—We often twist what we know to serve what we want.

(4) The Requirement of a Decision (vv. 24-28)

There are really two things that Jesus is trying to say here I think. The first is this: You and I need more than a spring-cleaning. The second: You have a decision to make. You must do something with this Jesus. There is no option of neutrality. You will either harden towards Him or soften. You will either shut the door, or let Him in.

Reflection Questions



- Where have you been looking more like Satan than God lately? Why do you think this is the case? What's been happening in your heart? How can Jesus help?
- How do faith and reason go together? Why do we often separate them? In what ways might it actually require more faith to be an atheist? How might your understanding of these things now affect the way you share with the unbelieving?
- Describe a time when you twisted what you knew to serve what you wanted. Why did you do it? How do you think this plays into your relationship with God?
- Have you seen or experienced anything of Jesus' grace and power? How have you responded? Are you hardening or softening, closing or opening? Have you let Him into "the house"?