

Sermon Notes on Lk. 11:14-28, Lent III

1. When man fell into sin (Gen. 3) God cursed man and the world. Satan became the god of this world, II Cor. 4:4, the prince of this world, Jn. 12:31, the prince of the power of the air, Eph. 2:2. But Jesus conquered him totally, Col. 2:15; Heb. 2:14; II Tim. 1:10; I Jn. 3:8. Hell was prepared for the devil and his angels, Mt. 25:41. The renewed child of God is armed with faith in Christ to overcome Satan, I Pet. 5:9; Eph. 6:11-16. Christians are victorious over Satan. I Jn. 2:13. Christ became a curse in our stead. Gal. 3:13.
2. Jesus' enemies often accused Him of working with Satan. First at Mt. 9:32-34. Then at Mt. 12:22-30 (same as Mk. 3:22-27). Then in our text, Lk. 11:14-28. See also Jn. 8:52 and 10:20. Sinful man who is ruled by the devil accuses the Son of God of being a devil. Jesus told them the truth at Jn. 8:44. Unconverted man is a child of Satan.
3. In our text Jesus deals with three groups of people: a) The multitude were only amazed at the miracle, vs. 14; b) Others demanded a sign from heaven, something greater than the miracle, vs. 16. Jesus answers them in vss. 29-30. He is referring to His death and resurrection; c) A third group accused Jesus of working with Satan, vs. 15. He answers them in vss. 17-20.
4. Jesus' answer in vss. 17-20 shows that His accusers are illogical, self-condemning and liars. He begins in vs. 17 with an axiom, a truth which is understood universally immediately: A kingdom or house divided against itself will fall. In other words, Satan would not allow a devil to cast out a devil. What they say is illogical. Next, in vs. 19 Jesus says: "If, as you say, I cast out devils by Satan's power, then how do your people do it? If they do, they condemn you." See Acts 19:13,14 for an instance of exorcism, the ability to cast out devils. There were those among the Jews who claimed the ability of driving out devils. Jesus is not saying that they did or did not have this power. He is merely referring to their claim without passing judgment on it. Thirdly, in vs. 20 Jesus is saying: "There is only one other possibility: I am casting out demons by the finger or power of God (see Ex. 8:19). And, therefore, the Kingdom of God has come to you." Jesus' answer is a masterpiece of teaching. He exposes the thoughts of their perverted minds which cannot think correctly nor can they distinguish between God's Kingdom and Satan's kingdom.
5. "Kingdom of God" here means the saving power of God in His spoken Word. Jesus cast out demons by means of His Word. And, everything apart from God's Word and the Sacraments is of the kingdom of Satan. Satan is the ruler of man until he is converted.
6. In vss. 21-22 Jesus is saying that Satan was fully in control of the world until Christ, the stronger One, came. Jesus took all of Satan's armor away from him. Then note the warning in vs. 23. If you are not for Christ, you are against Him. There is no middle ground.
7. In vss. 24-26 Jesus is saying that unbelievers have a limited ability to control Satan in their lives but when they drive him out he comes back with seven other devils and they make the condition worse than it was at first. You cannot truly fight Satan without faith in Christ. People often make resolutions to live better but unless they do so by faith in the Gospel they usually fail.
8. In vs. 27 someone cried: "You are wonderful because your mother was wonderful and blessed." Jesus answers and says: "Oh no, only those who hear the Word of God and keep it are blessed." See Lk. 1:45. Mary was blessed only because she believed in the Lord.
9. Jesus' power to drive out devils did not convert people. It only proved that He was the Messiah and that the kingdom of God had come to the people. Jn. 2:11; Mt. 11:5. But through the Word Christ has redeemed us from the power of darkness and placed us in the Kingdom of God's Son in Whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins. Col. 1:13,14.

Sermon Outline for Lk. 11:14-28, Lent III

Theme: BLESSED ARE THEY WHO HEAR THE WORD OF GOD AND KEEP IT

Introduction: Luther once said: "Whatever is not of the Word of God and the Sacraments is of the devil." Until people are converted they are Satan's children. See Eph. 2:1-3; Acts 26:18; Jn. 8:43-44; I Jn. 3:8-10. The Law convicts a person of his sin and membership in Satan's Kingdom. Jn. 16:7-11. But the Gospel is the power of God to salvation to everyone who believes. Rom. 1:16. Mary was blessed, not because she bore Jesus, but because she believed His Word, Lk. 1:45.

I- JESUS SHOWS SATAN'S CHILDREN THEIR SINS

A- He warns them about total destruction

- 1- In vs. 14 when Jesus drove out the evil spirit, some were only amazed. They acknowledged that this was a wonderful thing but it did not convert them. He says: "He that is not with Me is against Me." No man can be neutral to Jesus. If he does not believe in Jesus he remains dead in his trespasses and sin.
- 2- In vs. 16 some were tempting Him, seeking a sign from heaven. They wanted more than Jesus and His power. But in vss. 29-30 Jesus tells them that the only sign they will receive will be His death and resurrection. See Mt. 12:38-40. See also Lk. 16:31. If people are indifferent to Jesus and His Gospel, nothing can help them.
- 3- In vs. 15 we are told about those who accused Jesus of working with Satan. This happened frequently. See Mt. 9:32-24; 12:22-30; Jn. 8:52; 10:20. But Jesus shows them by correct thinking that they are condemning themselves. In vs. 17 He shows them that their accusation is contrary to nature. Then in vs. 18 He shows them that they are self-condemned because their fellow-Jews claimed the ability to drive out evil spirits. They condemn Jesus' accusers.

- #### B- He warns them that their entanglement with Satan will become worse.
- See vss. 24-26. Jesus is speaking about the person who tries to drive out Satan without Christ. He is speaking about the person who makes resolutions to become better by his own power. When he stops a bad habit he thinks that he has overcome evil by his own power. But the evil spirit which he has driven out seeks the company of other evil spirits. Together they come back to this man. They find a heart that is well prepared for them because it thinks that it has overcome evil but is deluded. Jesus says that the last condition of such a man is worse than it was at first. The final condition of such a person is hell, which was prepared for the devil, his angels and the followers of Satan. See Mt. 25:41.

II- JESUS OFFERS HIMSELF TO HIS ACCUSERS

- #### A- They must agree that Jesus has the power of God. Read vs. 20. Jesus is saying: "If your accusation against Me is false then you must agree that I have the power of God and that the Kingdom of God has come to you." What is the Kingdom of God? It is what John the Baptist and Jesus came preaching. See Mt. 3:2 and 4:17. We pray for the coming of this Kingdom in the Lord's Prayer. It is the proclamation of the forgiveness of sins, life and salvation in Christ Jesus, the Savior. Jesus is offering that to His enemies.
- #### B- They must agree that a stronger than Satan has come. Read. vss. 21-23. Jesus is saying that before He came Satan held the whole world in a false sense of peace. People were content to be held in the power of Satan. But now a stronger One than Satan, namely Jesus, has come and taken Satan's armor from him. See Col. 2:15; I Jn. 4:4. Then He says: "He that is not with Me is against Me."
- #### C- He describes those who are truly blessed. Read vss. 27-28. Mary was blessed not because she bore Jesus but because she believed in Him. See. Lk. 1:45. "Blessed are they who hear the Word of God and observe it." The Word of God converts sinful man and gives him eternal life.

Sermon Notes for Lk. 4:31-37, III Lent

1. The same account is found at Mk. 1:21-28 which should be studied to. On this occasion Jesus made His first appearance in a synagogue in the north, just as in Jn. 5 He made His first appearance in a synagogue in the south. On this occasion Jesus drove out a demon. In Jn. 5 He healed a lame man.
2. Twice our text tells us (vss. 32 and 36) that the people were amazed at Jesus' teaching which was authoritative. Mk. 1:22 states that His teaching was with authority and not like that of the scribes. The scribe teaching was flowery, empty and vain. Jesus' teaching was simple, full of grace and truth and carried His Father's authority.
3. Jesus had defeated Satan in the desert (Mk. 1:12-13; Mt. 4:1-11). But Satan tried his best during Jesus' ministry to wreck His work. Therefore cases of devil-possession occurred with higher frequency during Jesus' days on earth. Jesus came to destroy the works of the devil (I Jn. 3:8) and to overcome the one who had the power of death, the devil (Heb. 2:14). In the book of Acts there are very few cases of devil-possession. In Jesus' day the people could recognize devil-possession. See vs. 36 of our text. Furthermore, it is clear from Lk. 10:17-20 that the seventy knew that they were dealing with demons. We cannot deny the possibility of miracles and devil-possession in our time. But it is difficult to prove an occurrence. This writer thinks that miracles and cases of devil-possession have practically ceased.
4. At Mk. 5 and Lk. 8 in the account of the devil-possessed man, we read that many devils possessed one man. But in our text only one demon is said to have been in one man. The demon said: "I know who You are." Therefore, when he says: "What do we have to do with You, Jesus of Nazareth? Have you come to destroy us?" the demon-possessed means the other people and himself. "We" and "us" does not mean "we demons" but "we people." The demon possessed the man and spoke through the man but the demon-possessed identified himself with the other people.
5. Some scholars think that the question "Have you come to destroy us" should be read as a statement: "You have come to destroy." Either way the demon-possessed is portraying Jesus as a destroyer of mankind, not the Savior of mankind. Satan uses the demon-possessed as a missionary. Does Satan do that today? Yes. For example, he comes to us and whispers in our ear: "Did Jesus really save you or is He phony?" or he may say: "Jesus does not really care about you. Don't believe those preachers."
6. Very likely this demon-possessed man came to the synagogue every week. The unauthoritative teaching of the scribes did not excite the demon. But when Jesus spoke in the synagogue the devil struck back and cried out in the synagogue.
7. The devil and his demons are always unclean, obscene, with no truth in them. This demon overpowered this man so that he had to do the demon's will. When Jesus said: "Be quiet and come out of him" the demon did not obey the first command but had to obey the second command.
8. Jesus said at Lk. 10:19: "Nothing at all will hurt you." Vs. 35 of our text says that the demon came out violently but did not harm him. The devil left very reluctantly but had to do Jesus' will and not do harm.
9. Jesus forbade the demon to speak because the demon was accusing Jesus of being a destroyer of mankind, not the Savior of mankind.
10. The demons confessed that Jesus was the Holy One of God, the Son of God. That is more than the Jews admitted. James 2:19 says: "The demons believe but tremble." Their faith is only knowledge. They do not agree to the Truth, nor do they put their confidence in it.
11. This miracle proved Jesus' divinity (cf. Mt. 11:5). That's why news about Jesus went into the surrounding district of Galilee.
12. Jesus did not come saying: "I am the Holy One of God. I am the Son of God." He taught the people and did miracles so that they came to the conclusion that He was the Holy One of God and His Son. For example, Jn. 4:25,26 and Lk. 24:31.

Sermon Outline for Lk. 4:31-37, III Lent

Theme: WHO IS THIS HOLY ONE OF GOD?

Introduction: The sentence "You are the Holy One of God" occurs only twice in the N.T., at Jn. 6:69 in the mouth of Peter and here (and its parallel, Mk. 1:24) in the mouth of a demon. There is a similarity and yet there is a great difference. This reminds us of what James 2:19 says "You believe that there is a God. You do well. Also the demons believe but tremble." Both Peter and the demons believe that Jesus is the Holy One of God but their belief in the purpose of His coming is quite different. That's what this sermon is about.

I-THE DEMONS BELIEVE THAT JESUS IS ONLY A DESTROYER

A-The character of these demons. Vs. 33 tells us that this spirit was an unclean spirit. From the description in the text we know that this indicates a perverse and incorrigible character. In Jesus' presence he shrieked. He threw the boy to the ground. He wanted to harm and destroy the boy and would have if Jesus had not prohibited him from doing this. At Jn. 8:44 Jesus tells us that the devil is a murderer, that there is no truth in him and that he is the father of lies. I Pet. 5:8 tells us that the devil is our adversary and that, like a lion, he goes about seeking to devour someone. Think of what the devil did to Job. Think of what the devil did to Judas when he entered Judas' heart.

B-The belief of these demons. Js. 2:19 says that the demons believe that there is a God but it only causes them to tremble. To the devil God is only a destroyer. The demon said: "You have come to destroy us" or, if it is a question: "Have you come to destroy us?" The word "us" can be taken in two ways. It could mean "us demons" or it could mean "us people." The victim was possessed by an unclean spirit. He identified both with the people and with the demons. If the demon meant "us demons" he was thinking only of judgment day. If he meant "us people" he was thinking of Jesus only as a destroyer. In either case the thought of Jesus as Savior was foreign to his thinking. It is true, of course, that Jesus will destroy the unbeliever but His purpose in coming was not to destroy but to save.

II-THE DISCIPLES BELIEVE THAT JESUS IS ONLY THE SAVIOR

A-The character of the disciples. Jn. 6 is the account of the feeding of the 5000 and what happened the next day. Many of the 5000 returned the next day to get more bread. In fact they wanted to make Jesus their "bread-king". But Jesus used the occasion to tell them why He had come to earth. He pleaded with these people to accept Him as their Savior. Four times He promised to raise them up on the last day. But they did not want Him. All except the twelve disciples left Him. And so Jesus asked them: "Do you also want to go away?" And Peter answered: "Lord, to whom shall we go. You have the Words of eternal life. And therefore we have come to believe and know that you are the Holy One of God." Then John mentions that one of the twelve, Judas, was a devil. Even then already, a year before Jesus' death, Satan was working in Judas' heart.

B-The belief of these disciples. The devils believed and trembled. Jesus' disciples believed and were comforted. When Jesus turned the water into wine, His disciples believed in Him. Jn. 2:11. When He raised Lazarus from the dead the disciples and many of the Jews believed in Him. The miracles of Jesus caused His enemies among the Jews and the demons to turn against Jesus. The record of the many miracles of Jesus cause us to believe that He is the Son of God and that He came to seek and save the lost. The report about Jesus spread in the country around where Jesus was working and preaching. We too should spread the report about Jesus in our country.