

## **Things That Can't Coexist 10-13-21**

**Scripture - The scribes who came down from Jerusalem were saying, "HE is possessed by Beelzebub (Satan)," and "HE is driving out the demons by the [power of the] ruler of the demons." So HE called them to HIMSELF and spoke to them in parables, "How can Satan drive out Satan? ..." [Mark 3:22-30 AMP]**

**There are three accounts in the Gospels in which JESUS states that a kingdom divided against itself is laid waste or a house divided cannot stand [Luke 11:17; Mark 3:25; Matthew 12:25]. All three instances of this statement are spoken in response to the Pharisees' accusation that JESUS was casting out demons by the power of Satan, a blasphemy that JESUS said would not be forgiven them.**

**What are some things that can't coexist? Light and Darkness; Wet and Dry; Love and Hate; The truth and a lie; Right and Wrong; Love and Hate; Victim and Victor; and Complaining and Praising. Attributing JESUS' ability to perform miracles to the power of Satan also could not coexist!**

**John 1 says, In the beginning was the WORD, and the WORD was with GOD, and the WORD was GOD. HE was in the beginning with GOD. All things were made through HIM, and without HIM nothing was made that was made. In HIM was life, and the life was the light of men. And the light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not comprehend it... [John 1:1-4; continue reading v.10-14 NKJV].**

**The reason for JESUS coming to earth was to save his people from their sins. HIS life, death and resurrection together constitute what we know as the "good news!" JESUS' great purpose was to restore sinners to a right relationship with GOD which brings everlasting life.**

**JESUS' argument to the Pharisees was logical: a kingdom that is at cross-purposes with itself will fall. Any household**

**riven by infighting will tear itself apart. JESUS was obviously casting demons out of people. If JESUS was in league with Satan, or if Satan was somehow working through JESUS, it is unlikely that exorcisms would be a priority, because why would Satan cast himself out? Satan has more practical wisdom than to allow his demonic underlings to group themselves into warring factions.**

**By saying that a house divided cannot stand, JESUS is illustrating the fact that success relies on congruence. This is something we see in daily life all the time. Whether it is a machine, a sports team, a government party, or one's own mind, things have to work together if anything is to be accomplished. The Bible says that a double-minded man is unstable in all his ways [James 1:8], and Paul appeals to the churches that there be no divisions among the believers [1 Cor. 1:10]. In fact, churches should be unified in their purpose and judgment, avoiding people who cause divisions and create obstacles contrary to sound doctrine [Romans 16:17]. Christians are not to quarrel but to be unified around a common understanding of truth. "How good and pleasant it is when GOD'S people live together in unity!" [Psalm 133:1].**

**GOD commands unity among believers because, once conflict enters the midst of any assembly or entity, productivity and usefulness inevitably grind to a halt and the whole organization is weakened and becomes vulnerable to attack. As JESUS said, "Any kingdom divided against itself will be ruined, and a house divided against itself will fall."**

**May we always have a mind through which CHRIST thinks; a heart through which CHRIST loves; a voice through which CHRIST speaks; a hand through which CHRIST helps; and be a vessel through which CHRIST lives!**

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