

Unclean Spirit – February 14, 2021

1. Introduction:

- a. We read about something or someone being “unclean” many times throughout God’s Word.
- b. Question: What does it mean to be unclean?
- c. Baker’s Bible Dictionary says, “An unclean person in general had to avoid that which was holy and take steps to return to a state of cleanness. Uncleanness placed a person in a "dangerous" condition under threat of divine retribution, even death if the person approached the sanctuary. Uncleanness could lead to expulsion of the land's inhabitants and **its peril lingered upon those who did not undergo purification.**”
- d. Question: How are we, who are born unclean (sinful), made clean?

2. **Read:** Luke 11:24-26, “When the unclean spirit has gone out of a person, it passes through waterless places seeking rest, and finding none it says, ‘I will return to my house from which I came.’²⁵ And when it comes, it finds the house swept and put in order.²⁶ Then it goes and brings seven other spirits more evil than itself, and they enter and dwell there. And the last state of that person is worse than the first.”

- a. The People's Bible Commentary (CPH) tells us that, “Jesus did much good driving out evil spirits from many people’s lives. Once healed, such a person has the responsibility of making sure that the devil isn't given the opportunity to get back in. The demon goes searching for a resting place and if none is found, it may come back along with 7 other spirits and reoccupy its former quarters. Jesus is warning against leaving one's life empty, of living in a vacuum. **Only the heart filled with the Holy Spirit is fortified against the assaults of Satan.**”
- b. Question: What is meant in verse 24 when Jesus says that the exorcised spirit “passes through waterless places seeking rest?”
- c. Question: Why are waterless places an apt metaphor for people who reject God’s love and forgiveness?
- d. Question: Consider again Luke 8:26-33 and the account of Jesus healing the demon possessed man. In Luke 8:33 we are told, “Then the demons came out of the man and entered the pigs, and the herd rushed down the steep bank into the lake and drowned.” For what were these demons searching? For what were the demons in our text searching?
- e. Question: Why do you think the demons found the pigs a desirable place in which to be cast?

f. Question: Why do you think the demon in our text today (verse 24) found returning to the person it previously possessed to be desirable?

g. Question: Why do we sometimes search for a resting place?

h. Question: Why do we so often long to return to things in our past?

i. Question: Luke 11:25 says of the demon that had been casted out, “And when it comes, it finds the house swept and put in order.” What does it mean that the house was swept and put in order?

j. Question: In the Parable of the Sower (Matthew 13:5-6) Jesus said, “Other seeds fell on rocky ground, where they did not have much soil, and immediately they sprang up, since they had no depth of soil, ⁶ but when the sun rose they were scorched. And since they had no root, they withered away.” In Luke 11:26 Jesus says, “And when it comes, it finds the house swept and put in order. ²⁶ Then it goes and brings seven other spirits more evil than itself, and they enter and dwell there. And the last state of that person is worse than the first.” How are these 2 verses similar?

k. Christians can and should always remember this regarding demon possession, 1 John 4:2-4, “Every spirit that confesses that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is from God, ³ and every spirit that does not confess Jesus is not from God. This is the spirit of the antichrist, which you heard was coming and now is in the world already. ⁴ Little children, you are from God and have overcome them, for **he who is in you is greater than he who is in the world.**” Jesus in us is our strong and ever-present protection against possession by Satan and his evil horde!

3. **Read:** Luke 11:27-28, “As he said these things, a woman in the crowd raised her voice and said to him, ‘Blessed is the womb that bore you, and the breasts at which you nursed!’ ²⁸ But he said, ‘Blessed rather are those who hear the word of God and keep it!’”

a. Question: What prompted the women to exclaim that Jesus’ mother was blessed?

b. Question: What was the response of the Jesus to the women’s proclamation?

c. Question: Why do you think Jesus redirected the women’s adoration?

d. Question: Where can we hear God’s Word?

e. Question: How can we keep God’s Word?

f. Question: Although not expressly stated in the text for today, what are we to do with God’s Word other than keep it?