

"Swept Clean"

- Opening Announcements
- Opening Prayer

Q: When you think of demons, what comes to mind?

Q: What are some questions you might have about demons, the demonic, the kingdom of darkness, etc.?

READ: Luke 11:14-23 "Now he was casting out a demon that was mute. When the demon had gone out, the mute man spoke, and the people marveled. ¹⁵ But some of them said, "He casts out demons by Beelzebul, the prince of demons," ¹⁶ while others, to test him, kept seeking from him a sign from heaven. ¹⁷ But he, knowing their thoughts, said to them, "Every kingdom divided against itself is laid waste, and a divided household falls. ¹⁸ And if Satan also is divided against himself, how will his kingdom stand? For you say that I cast out demons by Beelzebul. ¹⁹ And if I cast out demons by Beelzebul, by whom do your sons cast them out? Therefore they will be your judges. ²⁰ But if it is by the finger of God that I cast out demons, then the kingdom of God has come upon you. ²¹ When a strong man, fully armed, guards his own palace, his goods are safe; ²² but when one stronger than he attacks him and overcomes him, he takes away his armor in which he trusted and divides his spoil. ²³ Whoever is not with me is against me, and whoever does not gather with me scatters."

Q: What sticks out to you about this passage?

Q: What were the sentiments of the various groups in verses 15-16?

Q: What's interesting about verse 17-18? What might we learn and how might we apply this verse to our own life, situation, church, groups, nation, etc.?

Q: What's interesting about verses 19 - 20?

Q: What do verses 21-23 teach us?

Beelzebul

READ: 1 Kings 1:1-4 "After the death of Ahab, Moab rebelled against Israel. ² Now Ahaziah fell through the lattice in his upper chamber in Samaria, and lay sick; so he sent messengers, telling them, "Go, inquire of Baal-zebub, the god of Ekron, whether I shall

recover from this sickness." ³ But the angel of the Lord said to Elijah the Tishbite, "Arise, go up to meet the messengers of the king of Samaria, and say to them, 'Is it because there is no God in Israel that you are going to inquire of Baal-zebub, the god of Ekron?' ⁴ Now therefore thus says the Lord, You shall not come down from the bed to which you have gone up, but you shall surely die.' "

NOTE: This is the first instance of "Baal-zebub" mentioned in the Bible. The name *possibly* means "Baal - Lord, zebub - "of the flies". Baal-zebub was the Philistine's supreme god (from the city of Ekron). The diety was thought to give "oracles" by the flight or buzzing of flies. During the intertestamental times and in Jesus' day, Baal-zebub was changed to "Baal-zebul" which in the Syriac language means "Lord of Dung". This change of the name of foreign gods was a common practice to demean the god (and the people who worshipped them!). The Jews, particularly were fond of this and used this term and associated the name with the devil or satan. There were also those who believed that Baal-zebul in the rabbinic language means "Lord of the House". So when Jesus comes and uses this term, He seems to be attaching this meaning to it. Here we have an example of Jesus' knowledge of the local and regional beliefs/encounters and influences of the pagan gods that Israel had dealt with since Egypt, for centuries and He Masterfully uses them to make His point!

Q: How can understanding the "gods" of our world help us in our proclamation of the truth?

Q: In King Ahaziah's (6th King of Judah) case, how does his "inquiring" of Baalzebub bring on the judgment of God?

Q: What happens when the leaders of nations inquire in false dieties?

Q: When you think of satan....the "devil", what do you think his agenda is?

Q: How does he accomplish it?

Q: What is THE defense against the attacks of the "evil one"? (Hint: Matthew 6:13... notice Jesus technically "ends" the L.P. with this!).

POINT: Knowing your enemy is important! But know your Savior is MORE important! Hearing His voice and knowing His ways is WAY safer than studying the devil!

Q: What are some of the ways we can defend ourselves against the "schemes of the devil"? (Hint: Ephesians 6:10-20)