

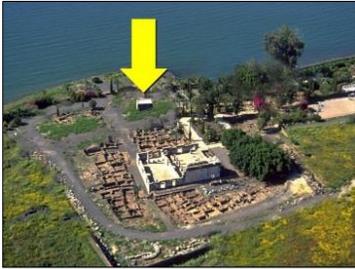
Weaving the Word

Demonized

Part 58 – February 14, 2016

Welcome to where we're learning to open our hearts to life and close our hearts to death!

Are there any rooms in your house that're off-limits to Jesus?



We're in the most dramatic *and detailed* day of Jesus' ministry! Jesus is in His home office and headquarters in Capernaum, submerged in a sea of suffering.

He's brought out the crowd, and now called out the perverse religious leaders who've come, not to assess His Messianic claims and miracles, as they should, but to condemn Him, and stop Him.



In rebellion to God's Word, Son, and Spirit, they deny the signs they see, demand unbiblical signs in the skies, and demonize His power.

But Jesus repairs their damage by demonstrating that the men in this *generation*, or *gang*, (*genea* G1074) of leaders, are wicked and adulterous deceivers.



“... and now **one greater than Jonah** [who opened the hearts of an entire wicked nation, while closing his own, to God's gracious, compassionate, loving Spirit (Jonah 4:2)] **is here**. ... and now **one greater than Solomon** [the wisest, but spiritually adulterous, King of Israel, who destroyed his own home by allowing idolatrous wives into his household] **is here**.” [And the crowd went wild!] – Matthew 12:41b, 42b NIV

I ended by pointing out that, **because the “One greater” is in you, and He's greater than the one in the world**, (1 John 4:4) **you are greater than your fear, anger, pain, lust, and addictions**.

But, put yourself in the sandals of these cold hearted wolves, now exposed to this mob. If they're sane, they're terrified. And, Jesus now rebukes 'em for turning a blind eye to the straight-forward signs that God has plainly shown 'em, in scripture.

“No one lights a lamp and puts it in a place where it will be **hidden, or under a bowl**. [God didn't conceal the miracles that accompany the Messiah; He *announced* 'em!] Instead **he puts it on its stand**, [through the prophets, in passages like Isaiah 29:18 and 35:4-6] so that **those who come in may see the light**. [We enter His Word through our eyes] **Your eye is the lamp of your body**. [It perceives and receives God's Word] **When your eyes are good**, [seeking the light of wisdom, truth, counsel, strength, courage, discernment, and reverence] your whole body also is full of light.

But when they are bad, [Seeking only to fortify theological positions, or strengthen arguments, earn points with God, or bolster a self-righteous sense of superiority or spirituality] your body also is full of darkness. [Then He says to those there's hope for] **See to it, then,** [pun intended] **that the light within you is not darkness.** [He doesn't want to condemn 'em, but to scare 'em straight] Therefore, if **your whole body is full of light,** and **no part of it dark,** [you've exposed and surrendered every dark corner, crevice, and cranny to God's Word and Spirit, and you're not concealing any conflicting, dark, desires] it will be completely lighted, as when the light of a lamp shines on you." – Luke 11:33-36 NIV

Jesus now explains how this generation of scripture experts could have just watched a blind, mute, demon-possessed man be freed and healed, and remain blind and mute to what it means.



"When an evil spirit comes out of a man, it goes through **arid** [anydros: lit. **waterless**] places seeking rest and does not find it. Then it says, 'I will return to the house I left.' When it arrives, it finds the house **unoccupied, swept clean** and **put in order.** Then it goes and takes with it **seven other spirits more wicked than itself,** and they go in and live there. And the final condition of that man is worse than the first. **That is how it will be with this wicked generation.**" – Matthew 12:43-45; Luke 11:24-26 NIV

Really? They'll all be possessed, and successfully delivered, but then each evil spirit will go out return with seven more? **The key to understanding this is in the set-up to this confrontation.**

So Jesus called them and spoke to them **in parables** ... – Mark 3:23a NIV

He tells of a divided house, and robbing a strong man. Then, He pauses the parables to make a point, saying: **"I tell you the truth ..."** (Mat 12:31; Mark 3:28) And then, He ends, with the parables of the *Eye Lights* and the *Homeless Demon*.

"These guys are like a guy who has an evil spirit evicted from his house (like the guy I just delivered); but, fails to fill his unoccupied heart with the things of God."

"That is how it will be with (these guys) this wicked generation."

"They've cleaned the things that show; but they're occupied by wicked desires. Their eyes are shut to the Word, and their hearts to the Son; so, even now, their eyes grow darker and their hearts harder."

They tried to demonize Jesus; but, *all* can see that it's actually *these guys*, with the darkening eyes, who've been deceived. **Why does the homeless spirit wander through waterless places?** Because, **like these guys, it refuses to come to the only One who has the true authority to say:**



"If anyone is thirsty, let him come to me and drink. Whoever believes in me, as the Scripture has said, **streams of living water will flow from within him."** [Know what He meant by this?] By this he meant **the Spirit,** [the only Holy One] whom those who **believed in him** were later to **receive.** [From Him, to dwell within and fully occupy their house] – John 7:37b-39a NIV

And, why isn't that thirsty spirit able to find rest?

Because, **like these guys, it's evading the only One who can say:**

“Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls.” – Matthew 11:28-29 NIV



Actual Isaiah Scroll, c. 200 B.C.

And, **why does it bring seven more back to the party?** Not a lot of thoughts on this out there. *But, I have a speculation.* Who do we invite into our heart? Jesus. And, **when Jesus comes in, who does He bring to the party? His seven spirits, of course.**

I saw a Lamb, looking as if it had been slain, standing in the center of the throne ... He had seven horns and seven eyes, which are the seven spirits of God ... – Revelation 5:6 NIV

Seven is sometimes used in Scripture to signify completeness; so, some speculate that this signifies God's *complete* Spirit. However, 750 years earlier, **Isaiah the prophet happens to list seven spirits that the coming Messiah will bring to the party!**

A shoot will come up from the stump of Jesse; from his roots a Branch will bear fruit. **[That's Jesus!]** The **Spirit of the Lord** will rest on him **[that's the Spirit of light and life; and, that's ONE]** — the **Spirit of wisdom** **[that's common sense and good judgment; and, that's TWO]** and **of understanding**, **[that's intellect and aptitude; and, that's THREE]** the **Spirit of counsel** **[that's advising and instructing; and, that's FOUR]** and **of power**, **[that's strength and courage; and, that's FIVE]** the **Spirit of knowledge** **[that's discernment and perception; and, that's SIX]** and **of the fear of the Lord** **[that's reverence and awe; and, that's SEVEN]** ... – Isaiah 11:1-2 NIV

And, I think that's why Jesus mentions the seven wicked spirits. By rejecting Him as Messiah, these experts of scripture exchange the seven prophesied Spirits of the Christ, for wicked ones.

Instead of the Holy Spirit, a **spirit of immorality**. Instead of wisdom, **irrationality**. Instead of understanding, **ignorance**. Instead of counsel, **condemnation**. Instead of power, **cowardice**. Instead of knowledge, **dumbness**. And, instead of fearful respect, **contempt**.

Any of these trying to set up residence in your house? Technically they're "anti-Christ spirits".

Every spirit that does not acknowledge Jesus is not from God. This is the spirit of the antichrist, which you have heard is coming ... – 1 John 4:3a NIV

... as you have heard that the antichrist is coming, even now **many antichrists have come**. – 1 John 2:18b NIV

And, what's Jesus say just before telling the parables of the dark eyes and the demonized house? He says that the Queen of Sheba (a.k.a. "Queen of the South"; Mat 12:42; Luke 11:31) will condemn these guys. **Know what Sheba means in Hebrew? Seven.**



And when the **queen of Sheba** [Seven] had seen all the wisdom of Solomon, **the house that he had built** ... and his entryway by which he went up to **the house of the Lord**, there was **no more spirit in her**. [Her wonder left her unoccupied; but she remedied that by opening up to the One True God, and worshipping Him] Then she said to the king: "... **Blessed be the Lord your God** ..." – 1 Kings 10:4-9 NKJ

Sounds to me like Jesus is saying: "You'll be condemned by the once-pagan Queen of Seven, as an unholy house of seven, for denying the righteous King of Seven!"



They had swept themselves clean, by self-will, to a point. But, **it was religious duty, devoid of heartfelt delight or devotion. They failed to see their desperate need for total dependence; and, self-righteousness left 'em empty and open to further bondage.**

Remember when Jesus cast the ultimate evil spirit away from *Himself*?

"All this I will give you," he said, "if you will bow down and worship me." Jesus said to him, "**Away from me, Satan!** For it is written: '**Worship the Lord your God, and serve him only.**'" Then the devil left him ... – Matthew 4:9-11 NIV

The enemy left when he knew there was no room in the inside.

Are there any rooms in your house that're off-limits to Jesus? Are you like a guy who successfully gets rid of an unclean vice from his life, but fails to follow through, and surrender all, in humble, grateful, reverent, obedience to Christ? **If so, there'll be a void in your heart for a voice to exploit.** We give the enemy an opportunity to influence our desires, thoughts, motives, and behaviors, whenever we allow ourselves to fall into a pattern of recurring, unrepented, sin.

Have you rejected the influences you previously embraced? If you allowed 'em in, you might have to tell 'em to leave, by **confessing, repenting, rejecting,** and **re-surrendering** wholly, so your house can be put in order *and* fully occupied.



Whatever is off limits to Jesus is wide open to the enemy.

Do you call Jesus, Lord or Master? (They mean the same) Well, we can't give Him the title till we give Him the deed. **He isn't the Master till He owns and occupies your whole house.** *You can do it!* Know how I know? *You've opened your heart to Christ!* And, the One who is in you is far, far greater than the one who is in this dark world. (1 John 4:4)

It's time to turn on the lights and unlock the doors! It's time to turn over the bedroom; the kitchen; the TV room; family room; dirty laundry room; basement; bathroom; and closet. Otherwise, you'll be like this guy who successfully evicted an evil influence, only to find seven more coming in through his crawl space, and his bookshelf, and one of his guest rooms.