

Jesus 3D
Jesus Miracles
Luke 11:14-23

Threatened - He's the devil

- Politics: every president labeled as anti-christ
- Not sure what this says about humanity, it's interesting that when our status quo is threatened, our default = pawn of Satan

True in Jesus' day

- Incredible ministry for 3 years - public/private
 - Teaching, shared life, poured into leaders (disciples)
 - Miracles: water to wine, healing, exorcisms, walk on water, raise from death
 - Response = cahoots with the devil

Luke 11:14-23 parallel in Mt. 12 and Mk. 3

- writers didn't waste space - something we really need to pay attention to

Vs. 14 - Mute - couldn't speak for unknown length of time, well known

- Literacy rare, no iPad, texting, no paper-grunts and gestures (Tool man)
- 1 day when he encountered Jesus - life change
- Jesus freed him of bondage to a demon - spoke (unknown) marveled
- Everyone knew it was a miracle - not everyone happy

Vs. 15 - People tried to explain it

- Self-serving trick, power of Satan
 - Beelzebul - synonymous w/Satan = OT "Lord of the flies"

Vs. 16 - Amazing people didn't believe - kept trying to test Jesus

- Jesus knew no sign would overcome an unwillingness to believe
 - Same is true today
 - People around us (even here) who seek a sign that God is real, that Jesus is real
 - Rom. 1:20 - All creation point to God (makes him known) w/o excuse
 - Special revelation (supernatural) - dreams, Scripture, church
 - We have a part to play in making God known - GC
 - SR - Miracles just like Jesus performed
 - Hard hearts - chuck seeds
- Jesus knew some people's hearts were hard

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- Chuck seeds and pray - never know when someone's heart will soften-when God will open their eyes and heart-draw to Christ (mom)

Vs. 17-18 - Addresses their disbelief - contempt for him

1. Your claims are illogical - why would Satan fight his own kingdom?
 - Armies don't fight themselves
 - Office - "Go ahead, name a ship that doesn't set sail without 2 captains, a country without 2 presidents, what would catholicism be without the popes?"
 - A healthy organization has to be unified (elders)

Vs. 19 -

2. Your claims are self-incriminating

Vs. 20-22

3. You admit my power over Satan - Jesus couldn't defeat Satan unless he was more powerful - demonstrated at temptation

Vs. 23- Gets to the heart of the matter - no ambivalence towards Christ

- All or nothing - assertive here
 - Many today have issue with Jesus - assertiveness/ absolute
 - Assertive = bully, mean, rude, pride
 - Defensive, rude, feel like the victim
 - Jesus unapologetically, assertively, states all or nothing
 - Despite many miracles, despite God's voice at baptism, despite love, still rejected
 - We do same thing today - focus on the parts of Jesus we like
 - Pleasant stories, miracles, kindness, sacrificial death -reject teaching

We each have a choice - must make it

- "Indecision can spoil the Christian's life too. Coming to Christ as Savior is only the beginning. One must own him as Lord and decide for discipleship. But so many of us hold back! And only later discover that we have wandered into an empty way of life."
 - Decision to give part of one's life to Jesus, but hold back doesn't work
 - Time, effort, attitude, pride, money - Martin Luther (last part converted)

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Gospels show many miracles of Jesus - disgraced for them - murdered which brought greatest miracle

- Gave himself up to be murdered
 - Jesus knew people's thoughts, cast out demons, resisted Satan's best temptations - could have defeated a few priests and servants
 - Gave himself up, not for friends - enemies

Rom. 5:8 - But God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners (enemies), Christ died for us

- Sin separates us from God - Gen 3 (original sin) - rebellion
- On the Cross-traded our imperfection/rebellion for perfection/obedience
 - Martin Luther = great exchange

Jesus rose 3 days later - bring us back to God - right before God

Reality = what we think of Christ is of paramount importance. We can think he is the greatest of teachers and that he is sinless, we can dwell upon his perfection, we can believe he is brave and kind and honest, compassionate and truthful. We can idolize him. We can pray to him. But that is not enough. - All or nothing

Greatest question - Who is my God?

- If Jesus - your life will dramatically change - cannot help
 - New person - involve hardship - Our God was murdered
 - Will be mocked, flaws pointed out, disgraced
 - The same power that worked in Jesus also works in us - we don't hide our moral disgrace but use it as an opportunity to talk about Jesus' wondrous grace - neighbors, co-workers, friends, GC

Respond:

- Giving
- GC
- Serving
- Communion