



## WEEKLY STUDY

### WEEK THREE - Jesus Over Demons

*NOTE: (The content in this study parallels the content in the Study and Prayer Journal created for this series)*

We learn some lessons about the presence of evil when we follow Jesus. Jesus stirs things up because everywhere he goes, the demons are the first to recognize him. In Luke 11, Jesus saw more than a man who is mute, he saw that it was actually a demon who was mute, and the man himself was meant to speak. What if it's that way for us as well? Jesus knows and loves us to the core. He sees our potential freedom. On our own, we can easily focus on the demons, but this week we will learn to see Jesus over demons.

Peace of Christ,  
Pastor Mark Youngman

If you are studying with your Providence Small Group or Discipleship Group, you can share from your own daily reflections. If you would like to get connected visit [prov.church/smallgroups](http://prov.church/smallgroups).

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## DAILY STUDY

### MONDAY: LUKE 11.14-28 (NIV)

*Jesus was driving out a demon that was mute. When the demon left, the man who had been mute spoke, and the crowd was amazed. <sup>15</sup> But some of them said, "By Beelzebul, the prince of demons, he is driving out demons."<sup>16</sup> Others tested him by asking for a sign from heaven.*

<sup>17</sup> *Jesus knew their thoughts and said to them: "Any kingdom divided against itself will be ruined, and a house divided against itself will fall. <sup>18</sup> If Satan is divided against himself, how can his kingdom stand? I say this because you claim that I drive out demons by Beelzebul. <sup>19</sup> Now if I drive out demons by Beelzebul, by whom do your followers drive them out? So then, they will be your judges. <sup>20</sup> But if I drive out demons by the finger of God, then the kingdom of God has come upon you.*

<sup>21</sup> *"When a strong man, fully armed, guards his own house, his possessions are safe. <sup>22</sup> But when someone stronger attacks and overpowers him, he takes away the armor in which the man trusted and divides up his plunder.*

<sup>23</sup> *"Whoever is not with me is against me, and whoever does not gather with me scatters.*

<sup>24</sup> “When an impure spirit comes out of a person, it goes through arid places seeking rest and does not find it. Then it says, ‘I will return to the house I left.’<sup>25</sup> When it arrives, it finds the house swept clean and put in order.<sup>26</sup> Then it goes and takes seven other spirits more wicked than itself, and they go in and live there. And the final condition of that person is worse than the first.”

<sup>27</sup> As Jesus was saying these things, a woman in the crowd called out, “Blessed is the mother who gave you birth and nursed you.”

<sup>28</sup> He replied, “Blessed rather are those who hear the word of God and obey it.”

- Jesus drove out a demon from a man who had been mute but could then speak. Immediately, his detractors were looking for a way to spin this miracle. They said Jesus must be working with Satan. Others asked for a sign from heaven (assuming he could not provide one). However, a sign from heaven is a miracle, and he had just performed a miracle. Their accusations and demands were circular and meant to be a trap! We can get stuck trying to figure out Jesus. What it comes down to is the focus of this famous quote from C.S. Lewis’ *Mere Christianity*:

“Either this man was, and is, the Son of God, or else a madman or something worse. You can shut him up for a fool, you can spit at him and kill him as a demon or you can fall at his feet and call him Lord and God.” C.S. Lewis

In order for us to rightly see that Jesus is over demons, we have to see him for who he was and is. Spend time reflecting on who you know Jesus to be. Jesus is...

- **Prayer Prompt: The beginning of the good news about Jesus the Messiah, the Son of God... (Mark 1.1)**
- *God, I cast away any false image or idea I have held about who Jesus is. May my whole life now proclaim that Jesus is the Son of God. Work miracles in my life today Lord Jesus! Amen.*

## **TUESDAY: LUKE 11.1-13 (NIV)**

- Sometimes a good logical explanation from Jesus seems like the perfect thing. In verse 17, he stated it fairly plain—a demon can not cast out a demon or Satan’s kingdom would fall. Of course, the kingdom of darkness was already on its way towards defeat through Jesus. Divided kingdoms will always end up in defeat. It is not difficult to see how forces of evil are still trying to divide God’s chosen instrument to represent His Kingdom on earth: the church. Jesus said “whoever is not with me is against me”. We can hear that as a reminder to his followers to stay focused on him—the one who can cast out demons. Are you experiencing forces of darkness in your own life? Consider naming them in the space below—and then lift them up to Jesus, write his name over them. He is over everything.
- **Prayer Prompt: The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it. (John 1.5)**
- *Lord God, be my light. I want to walk with integrity—undivided from your Kingdom purposes. I pray for the church of Jesus Christ to remain focused on Him. Amen.*

### WEDNESDAY: LUKE 11.1-13 (NIV)

- Way back in the book of Exodus, a series of plagues were brought upon Egypt in order that Pharaoh would “let my people go” (Exodus 8). At one point, the magicians who were brought in to duplicate the plagues brought by God, said to Pharaoh, “This is the finger of God.” But Pharaoh’s heart was hard and he would not listen, just as the LORD had said.” (Exodus 8.19) When Jesus referred to the finger of God in casting out demons (Luke 11.20), he was also referencing the release of all of God’s people. The defeat of demons is proof that God’s Kingdom was already becoming visible just like the path to freedom became visible through the Red Sea. As you consider the signs of evil that are present in our world today, how does putting them in context of God’s great story of salvation help you gain perspective?
- **Prayer Prompt: When the LORD finished speaking to Moses on Mount Sinai, he gave him the two tablets of the covenant law, the tablets of stone inscribed by the finger of God. (Exodus 31.18)**
- *Jesus, thank you for leaving us signs of salvation through your words and actions. The Father works directly through you to offer freedom and new life to those who are captive. May you also work through me! Amen.*

### THURSDAY: LUKE 11.1-13 (NIV)

- Let’s face it, some of Jesus’ references take us a minute to comprehend. To understand the image of the strong man’s house (11.21-22), we have to consider that a person of wealth would use their servants as guards and soldiers to fortify his home. In this case, strength actually equals wealth. We must take note that Jesus is stronger than any strong man, he can overcome and remove the armor of any who would stand against him. While this sounds aggressive, I assume it would sound hopeful to those who witnessed the defeat of the mute demon. Is there any armor that may be (intentionally or unintentionally) built up in your life? What could Jesus break down for you today?
- **Prayer Prompt: I seek you with all my heart; do not let me stray from your commands. <sup>11</sup>I have hidden your word in my heart that I might not sin against you. (Psalm 119.10-11)**
- *Jesus, tear down my defenses and bring your healing power my way. You alone are mightier than a thousand armies. My victory is in you. Amen.*

### FRIDAY: LUKE 11.1-13 (NIV)

- Over the years, I’ve had memberships in various organizations. Some of which I simply sent a monthly check. Some sent me a newsletter. I’ve had seasons when I was “all in” with my gym membership, and seasons when I let other priorities win out. With Jesus, he wants us to be “all in” all the time. “If you’re not with me you’re against me.” Those are strong words, and he meant it. He doesn’t mean you can’t be forgiven for slipping away from him, but he wants us to go with him and to gather others with him. That’s how this works! Consider whether Jesus would say that you are with him right now. What does a scattered life look like? What would gathering with Jesus look like?
- **Prayer Prompt: Assemble the people—men, women and children, and the foreigners residing in your towns—so they can listen and learn to fear the LORD your God and follow carefully all the words of this law. (Deuteronomy 31.12)**

- *God, forgive me when I am lax in my faith. Remind me of my identity as a follower of Jesus, that is who I am and what I do. Amen.*

### **SATURDAY: LUKE 11.1-13 (NIV)**

- Can you picture the crowd that was around Jesus in this scene we've been studying? It's amazing to consider that there were people of all ages. Those who were questioning Jesus, and those who were noticing something happening to their hearts. "As he was saying these things a woman in the crowd called out..." (27) I can imagine that she had witnessed the whole episode. Clearly, she was amazed and saw that there was something special about Jesus. So she said, in effect, "bless your mama!" It was the equivalent to "your mom must be so proud". For me, this would have been a moment for some polite back and forth with the woman, but Jesus was on mission. He was aware that one man freed of a demon and several men put in their place was not enough. It all took place so that *many* would hear the word of God and obey. Do you know that the events of Jesus' life recorded in the gospels are about you too? They are for you and me. Jesus is over the demons we encounter. Hear the word of God and obey!
- **Prayer Prompt: The reason the Son of God appeared was to destroy the devil's work. (1 John 3.8)**
- *Blessed be the God who sent His Son to live, teach, heal, die, and raise to life for us! Amen.*