

Reflection Questions: Luke 11.14-26

For the message, "The Clash of Kingdoms" given by Pastor John Ferguson at Mercy Hill Church in Bryan/College Station, Texas, on January 31, 2021

These reflection questions are designed to help you apply the message from the Scriptures by helping you think through application to your personal life, your church life, and your city's life. You can use these by yourself for reflection, or with your family or small group for discussion. To review the message, go to MercyHillBCS.org/resources/messages.

INTRODUCTION

Pray. Take a moment to pray asking God to guide you in reflecting upon the Scripture text.

Read the Scripture text: Luke 11:14-26

14 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.

24 "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."

Let's get started...

- What immediately grabs your attention in this text? What questions or thoughts arise as you reflect on what it is saying?

QUESTIONS

1. Let's think about how this text applies to our lives as individuals.

- Luke presents this stunning exorcism by Jesus in only one understated verse, and then quickly moves on to the question about the identity of Jesus. Take just a moment to reflect on the horror of this man's possession, and the desperation of his friends and family. What might that have been like for them? What questions might they have entertained about the world and God? What prayers might they have uttered?

- The main charge leveled against Jesus is that he is in league with evil, demonic influences. How does this charge serve both as an evasion to believing the implications of who Jesus is, as well as an illustration of the hardness of their hearts?
- What are the implications of what Jesus did and said in this passage for our understanding of Jesus and his mission? What is Luke wanting us to see, understand, and believe about Jesus?

2. Let's think about how this text applies to us as a community of Jesus' followers.

- Jesus said, "Whoever is not with me is against me, and whoever does not gather with me scatters." Jesus obviously believes there is a spiritual clash of kingdoms, and invites people to buy into what he is saying, to entrust ourselves to him, and to join him in mission. How does this statement challenge our community of faith about our deepest loyalties and allegiances?
- What might be some ways that churches can be merely fans of Jesus but actually not be for his kingdom? Think about some ways that churches can get "off message" or substitute other agendas for Jesus mission.

3. Let's think about how this text applies to our city.

- Why is it critically important to understand Jesus' authority and mission in order to be faithful witnesses of Jesus to our city?
- How might we creatively explain the successful exorcisms performed by Jesus as a miniature act foreshadowing what Jesus intends to do with all of creation at the "renewal of all things" (Matthew 19:28)?

CONCLUSION QUESTION

What is the one thing you want to take away from this study to remember or to make a change in your life?

PRAYER

What are some ways you can turn what you are learning into prayer? List them as bullet points....

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