

## The True Powerful King

Luke 11:14–28

### Main Point

Pledge your allegiance and give your obedience to Jesus, the true powerful King.

#### I. Exposition

##### A. The Exorcism (11:14)

##### B. The Controversy (11:15–26)

###### 1. Who Is Jesus? *Two Answers* (vv. 16–23)

###### a) Power Source Questioned (vv. 15–16)

- (1) While many people marveled at the work of Christ, their astonishment moved them to come up with alternative explanations of His power source.
- (2) “Beelzebub” (also translated from the Hebrew as *Beelzebul*) is a reference to Satan, though it has its origins in the pagan god *Baal* (cf. 1 Kings 18 and the story of Elijah and prophets of Baal).
- (3) Others demanded that Jesus show them a sign from heaven to authenticate that His power was of divine origin.

###### b) Power Source Defended (vv. 17–23)

###### (1) Hypothetical: *Demonic Power*

- (a) Kingdoms who fight against themselves weaken themselves.
- (b) If Satan (i.e., “Beelzebub”) fights himself by casting out his own “minions,” then how could he expect to win?
- (c) Further, if Jesus performs exorcisms by the power of Satan, what about other Jewish people who perform exorcisms? They, too, will protest such an accusation.
- (d) The logic is clear: *It makes no sense whatsoever for Satan to be the origin of Jesus’ power to cast out demons.*

###### (2) Actual: *Divine Power*

- (a) “The finger of God” — a reference to Exodus 8:19. Jesus uses this phrase to mean *doing the work of exorcism by the power of God Himself*.
- (b) “The kingdom of God has come”
  - i) This is what Jesus taught his disciples to pray (Luke 11:2).
  - ii) In one sense Christ’s kingdom had come to earth and was manifested through His miraculous signs and wonders which only God can do.

iii) Jesus is the divine King to Whom belongs all power and glory (cf. Eph. 3:20–21).

(c) The Parable of the Stronger Man

i) The “strong man” is Satan, who is the prince of the power of the air (cf. Eph. 2:2) and his abode is here on earth “roaming about seeking whom he may devour” (1 Pet. 5:8).

ii) The “Stronger Man” is Jesus, Who invaded the world and exercised His power to overcome the Evil One by casting out demons and fulfilling the ultimate promise of God to “crush the serpent’s head” (Gen. 3:15).

iii) The point is simple: Jesus overpowers Satan (“Beelzebub”) because He is more powerful. He is God.

(d) The end of the matter is this: there is no neutrality with your view about Jesus (v. 23). Either you are with Him or you are not.

2. How should I respond? *A Parable* (vv. 24–26)

- a) The unclean spirit is cast out of a person (in the same way the disciples cast out demons; cf. Luke 10:17). It was often thought that demons resided in desert regions.
- b) The demon comes back to the person from whom he was cast out and sees that the person is vulnerable, and thus brings with him seven other demons.
- c) Jesus’ point: A person who does not continue to grow in faith following his encounter with the Lord will face harsher realities (cf. Heb. 6:4–6). Christ expects His followers to grow in their spiritual lives and combat the world, the flesh, and Satan himself.

**C. The Beatitude (11:27–28)**

- 1. A woman from the crowd boldly blesses Jesus’ mother (Mary) and thereby blesses Him. This would have been highly unusual for her to do, considering that when a Rabbi spoke it was expected that the women would listen attentively rather than blurt something out.
- 2. Jesus reacts to the woman by acknowledging her exclamation and making it a teaching moment: *Indeed My mother is blessed, but anyone is blessed even more when he (1) welcomes the Word of God, and (2) applies it to his life!*

**II. Truths**

- A. Jesus is the true powerful King who exercises divine authority.
- B. Jesus is the true powerful King who demands exclusive allegiance.
- C. Jesus is the true powerful King who blesses a Christian’s obedience.