

No Neutral Ground

Luke 11:14-26 ▪ November 16, 2025 ▪ Nat Porter

The _____ that uncover _____ issues.

The _____ that lays out _____ realities.

The _____ that demands _____ action.

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." (ESV)

Personal Reflection or Group Discussion Questions

Open: Have you ever witnessed or heard of a situation that seemed to involve demonic activity or dark spiritual power? What emotions or questions did it stir in you?

Read & Discuss: Luke 11:14–26

1. When Jesus casts out the mute demon, the crowd is amazed, while critics accuse Him of using power from Beelzebul (v. 15). Why do you think some people would rather attribute clear divine power to Satan than acknowledge Jesus' authority? What does this reveal about their hearts and assumptions? How can we guard our own hearts from skepticism or hardness when confronted with God's power?"
2. How does Jesus' analogy of a divided kingdom (v. 17) refute the accusation that He casts out demons by Satan's power? How does Jesus' question in verse 19 expose the inconsistency of His critics?
3. In verse 20, Jesus declares, "If it is by the finger of God that I cast out demons, then the kingdom of God has come upon you." What does this mean? What aspect of your daily life or habits do you often find difficult to surrender to the rule of this invading Kingdom?
4. Jesus compares Himself in verses 21 and 22 to a "stronger man" who overpowers a strong man and plunders his goods. What does this imagery teach about Jesus' authority over Satan's dominion? What hope does this passage offer for those who feel trapped by evil or spiritual darkness? How does Jesus' victory as the "Stronger Man" give courage and confidence to His followers?
5. What does Jesus mean when He says in verse 23, "Whoever is not with me is against me, and whoever does not gather with me scatters"? What does this statement mean about the possibility of spiritual neutrality? In what practical area of your life (e.g., finances, time, relationships) do you still find yourself trying to remain neutral or "on the fence" regarding Christ's authority?
6. Verse 25 speaks of demons finding a "house swept and put in order." What does the image of an "empty house" teach us about the danger of outward reform without inward transformation? How can genuine believers actively ensure they are filled with the presence of the Stronger Man rather than becoming spiritually vulnerable?

Apply: Jesus warns us against being uncommitted and leaving a spiritual "empty house." What is one specific action you will take this week to actively fill your life with Jesus, the "Stronger Man," instead of just trying to rearrange your spiritual life by your own power?

Pray: Pray for those in our communities who are intrigued by Jesus' power but remain uncommitted—those standing "on the fence." Ask God to give them the clarity and courage to see Jesus' full authority, choose to "gather with" Him, and avoid the danger of spiritual emptiness.