

⁴³ “When an evil spirit leaves a person, it goes into the desert, seeking rest but finding none. ⁴⁴ Then it says, ‘I will return to the person I came from.’ So it returns and finds its former home empty, swept, and in order. ⁴⁵ Then the spirit finds seven other spirits more evil than itself, and they all enter the person and live there. And so that person is worse off than before. That will be the experience of this evil generation.”

Matthew 12:43-45

Discussion/Journal Questions

What experiences are you looking forward to sharing with friends or family in the coming months?

Have two or three people read Matthew 12:43-45 out loud slowly. After some time of reflection, ask each other what words, phrases, or ideas stand out to everyone. What questions come to mind as you meditate on this scripture?

One of the first points Pastor John made on Sunday is that we need to stay focused on Jesus. What is the danger of becoming too focused on demons?

Read Revelation 12:3-4 and Genesis 6:1-4. In your own words, what are the two major theories for the origins of demons? Why is it important to hold some ideas with an “open hand”?

In Matthew 12:43-45, what does it mean that the demon returns to a person to find its former home “empty, swept, and in order”?

When an evil spirit leaves a person, what should take its place in a person’s life?

What else can we learn from Matthew 12:43-45 about evil spirits?

People commonly talk about demons affecting humans by “possession.” However, the Greek is better translated as “demonized” or demon-influenced. How are these two ideas different?

In Matthew 16:22-23 and 2 Corinthians 12:7, how were Peter and Paul affected by evil spirits?

In the sermon, Pastor John shared three methods that demons use to deceive us. What are they?

Read James 4:7-8 and 1 Corinthians 10:12-13. What promises does God to us concerning this battle?

Spend some time praying for each other in the battle and thanking Jesus for His victory over the enemy.