



Reformation or Regeneration: The Story of the Unclean Spirit Matthew 12:43-45

Introduction: Whose _____ do you belong to?

In this passage, Jesus is addressing the spiritual state of a generation that is _____ to God's message.

- _____ (turning over a new leaf) is not Regeneration (It is not salvation).
- Nature abhors a _____. Something will always fill space.
- Christianity is Christ in you _____ your life daily (2 Corinthians 5:17).

One writer penned, "What we don't need is an empty religion consumed with outer reformation.

Now, let's turn to our text and look at the danger of reformation without regeneration.

I. The Unclean Spirit _____ – 12:43

43 "When an unclean spirit goes out of a man, he goes through dry places, seeking rest, and finds none.

A. When an unclean _____ goes out of a man

The word "*unclean*" can also be translated, as _____ wicked, corrupt, and vile.

One of the biggest is _____ – why it is even called, spirits.

And do not be drunk with wine, in which is dissipation; but be filled with the Spirit (Ephesians 5:18).

B. He goes through _____ places

Are you aware that the human body is made up of about _____ water?

These classes were divided into five areas: (Take notes)

C. And finds no _____

Randy Stonehill - *Shut the Door Keep Out the Devil*. (Play Song).

Don't open doors to allow the devil a _____.

II. The Unclean Spirit _____ – 12:44

44 Then he says, 'I will return to my house from which I came.' And when he comes, he finds it empty, swept, and put in order.

A. I will return to the _____ from where I came.

There is a constant danger of _____ and temptation in the Christian life.

1 Peter 5:8 - *Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour.*

Matthew 12:44 - *"I will return to my house from which I came."*

B. And when comes, He finds it _____, swept,

Someone wrote, "Here lies the critical lesson: cleanliness without _____ is insufficient. It's not just about removing evil but about replacing it with good. An unoccupied heart is an invitation for greater evil."

The word "empty" means _____. There is nothing there.

C. And put in _____ .

People who _____ up their own lives may look good on the outside. They may even look healthier, but their appearance is deceiving.

I would submit to you that only _____ truly satisfies!

You don't need a neat life, but a _____! (John 3:3).

III. The Unclean Spirit _____ – 12:45

45 Then he goes and takes with him seven other spirits more wicked than himself, and they enter and dwell there; and the last state of that man is worse than the first. So shall it also be with this wicked generation."

A. Then he goes and takes _____ other spirits more wicked than himself,

Demon's _____ with other demons. And as I read this it appears that demons have different levels of wickedness. Look at the words,

More wicked than himself.

This unclean spirit brings with him _____ more wicked spirits, making the person's condition worse than before.

B. And they enter and _____ there;

There are a lot of people who are _____ by some very evil spirits.

C. And the last state of the man is _____ than the first.

Warren Wiersbe emphasizes that "reformation without _____ — external changes without internal transformation—leads to a worse state than before."

D. So shall it also be with this _____ generation

Jesus was addressing a _____ of people. Is this generation

alive today? Is it a generation of people that are alive through the ages? Is this being addressed to every generation of people? I believe so.

There are a whole lot of demon-possessed and _____ people today. They have rejected Jesus Christ. They want nothing to do with Him or His teaching.

Listen, either you are with _____, or you are against _____. There is no middle ground. Where are you today? Like I began at the start of this sermon, **“What family do you belong to?”**

Conclusion: What are the take-home truths from this passage of Scripture? Here are seven to think about:

1. _____ activity is very much alive.
2. A clean house is not necessarily a _____ house.
3. _____ is not enough. There needs to be regeneration. Every person needs to be born again (born from above).
4. An empty house is an open _____ for the devil and his demons.
5. The last state of a person can be their _____ state. Demons will bring other demons.
6. What we call _____ illness may be demonic disturbances.
7. A generation that says “ _____ ” to God belongs to the devil’s family.

[1] <https://radical.net/podcasts/pray-the-word/guard-against-evil-matthew-1243-45/>