

KINGDOM COME

- 24 -

State of Emergency

- ❖ Matthew 12 has been one long escalation.
- ❖ Jesus delivers a man
- ❖ The Pharisees call the Spirit's work demonic
- ❖ Jesus exposes that their words reveal their hearts
- ❖ They demand a sign, and Jesus points to Jonah – His death and resurrection.
- ❖ Now Jesus gives a warning about what happens when people refuse repentance.

Ephesians 6:10-12 10 Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his might. 11 Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the schemes of the devil. 12 For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers over this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places.

- Demonic activity is not just a thing of the past, but a present reality that Christians must be aware of.

- God as having ultimate authority over these demonic forces.
- Not every problem or sin in our lives is the result of demonic activity.

Matthew 12:43-45 43 “When the unclean spirit has gone out of a person, it passes through waterless places seeking rest, but finds none. 44 Then it says, ‘I will return to my house from which I came.’ And when it comes, it finds the house empty, swept, and put in order. 45 Then it goes and brings with it 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. So also will it be with this evil generation.”

- Spirits are demons in this narrative.
- They are not lost dead people wandering the earth because of unfinished business.
- These are real supernatural beings who have rebelled against God.
- The devil and demons are supernatural beings who are enemies of God.
- Waterless places we associated with demons because deserts were considered to be places of death,

wilderness, and devoid of blessings from God that came with rainfall and crops.

- The spirit wants to occupy somewhere.
- You can modify the behavior but never have a changed heart.
- Demons are persistent in seeking ownership of a persons entire life.
- “Swept” – moral effort.
- A.W. Tozer - "The devil is a better theologian than any of us and is a devil still."

Colossians 2:15 He disarmed the rulers and authorities and put them to open shame, by triumphing over them in him.