

## I. Jesus Knocks Out A Demon (14-16)

- A. The determination of Jesus - "Now He was casting out a demon that was mute."
- B. The deliverance from Jesus - "When the demon had gone out, the mute man spoke, and the people marveled."
- C. The denial of Jesus - "But some of them said, "He casts out demons by Beelzebul, the prince of demons," while others, to test Him, kept seeking from Him a sign from heaven."

## II. Jesus Tears Down A Lie (17-20)

- A. He pursued His detractors (17a) - "But He, knowing their thoughts, said to them..."
- B. He challenged their conclusions (17b - 18) - "Every kingdom divided against itself is laid waste, and a divided household falls. And if Satan also is divided against himself, how will his kingdom stand? For you say that I cast out demons by Beelzebul."

**They refused to take an unbiased look at the ministry of Jesus.  
They presupposed Him to be a deceiver and therefore misinterpreted what He did.**

- C. He called them to decision (19-20) - "And if I cast out demons by Beelzebul, by whom do your sons cast them out? Therefore, they will be your judges. But if it is by the finger of God that I cast out demons, then the kingdom of God has come upon you."

## III. Jesus Serves Up An Illustration (21-23)

- A. Satan certainly has power (21) - "When a strong man, fully armed, guards his own palace, his goods are safe."
- B. Jesus clearly has greater power (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."
- C. We must declare full allegiance (23) - "Whoever is not with Me is against me, and whoever does not gather with Me scatters."

## IV. Jesus Offers Up A Warning (24-26)

- A. Demonic opposition is real (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.'"
- B. Traditional, moral disciplines are a common response (25) - "And when it comes, it finds the house swept and put in order."
- C. Only Spirit-fulness defeats spiritual darkness (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."