

The Gospel of Luke

The Necessity of Spiritual Conformity

Luke 11:24-28

1. **The Example: the Danger of Spiritual Deliverance** (vs.24-26)
True exorcisms were powerful actions which immediately yielded positive results (Matt 8:28; Luke 9:42). However, unless followed up with true faith in Christ, those temporarily blessed end up far worse off.
 - A. The Reality of Spiritual Deliverance (v.24)
Jesus' ability to command the demons was never questioned, and entire communities bore witness to the results (Luke 8:35; Acts 8:7-8).
 - B. The Effect of Spiritual Deliverance (v.25)
Whether He cast out demons, healed sickness or raised people from the dead, the people upon whom Jesus showed compassion were immediately and demonstrably better off (Luke 8:42; 9:44, 54-55).
 - C. The End Result of Spiritual Deliverance (v.26)
This paucity of examples of faithfulness in those who had been delivered from demons (Luke 8:2, 38-39) is similar to the responses of those who benefited from Jesus' compassionate power in other ways (Luke 17:11-19).
2. **The Principle: the Peril of Mere Moral Conformity**
The Pharisees were exacting in their moral conformity to the Scriptures but were the most opposed to spiritual conformity to the Scriptures (see vs.37-44).
 - A. The Beginning Mere Moral Conformity: **Esteem Truth**
The Pharisees knew the truth of the Scriptures (Luke 10:25-28) and were even able to teach it correctly to others (Matt 23:1-3).
 - B. The Path of Mere Moral Conformity: **Enact Righteousness**
Pharisees were characterized by extremely righteous behavior (Matt 5:20; 23:28), zeal in evangelism (Matt 23:15), and are represented by the dutiful son in the parable of the prodigal son (Luke 15:29-30).
 - C. The End for Mere Moral Conformity: **Experience Condemnation**
The Pharisees travel on the wide road of religion (Matt 7:13-14, 21-23); they knew what was right but refused to be conformed to it (Luke 12:47-48).
3. **The Solution: the Supremacy of Spiritual Conformity** (vs.27-28)
Mary undoubtedly had a unique and significantly blessed role in Jesus' life (Luke 1:28, 30). However, those who are truly blessed are those who hear and obey the teachings of Jesus (Luke 8:21; cf. Rom 10:14-17).