

## **Luke 11:14-26**

### **Read Luke 11:14-26**

1. C.S. Lewis wrote – “There are two equal and opposite errors when it comes to the devils. The first is to disbelieve their existence. The second is to believe and have an excessive and unhealthy interest in them”. Have you seen either of these errors at work?
2. The gospels, Roman historians, and the Jewish authorities who sought to discredit him all agree on Jesus in one regard. They all agree he cast out demons. What do you make of this agreement? How would you explain it?
3. In the sermon Tim said – that Jesus did this (cast out demons), means we are being invited to consider that not all of our problems are simply human and material, that not all of them arise from physiological, psychological, and sociological forces otherwise science and education and therapy would deal with them fully – could it be that a spiritual component adds to their depth, their complexity, their intransigence. How do you respond to this affirmation?
4. Some of the crowd (Matthew tells us the Pharisees cf. Matthew 12:24) wonder aloud if Jesus has the power to cast out demons by the power of Satan. How does Jesus dismantle their slander? (vs. 17-19).

5. What is Jesus' alternative explanation for how he can cast out demons (vs. 20-22)? What does his answer tell us about Jesus' understanding of why he came?
  
6. (vs. 23) This is a very direct statement. What do you think it means in this context? How do you apply it to your own life?
  
7. (vs.24-26) As with any difficult passage there are lots of differing interpretations. Tim took the line that this is a continuation of vs. 23, if you are not with me, here is the danger. You can change, you can clean up your life, you can order disordered desires in many ways other than me (Jesus), but in doing so you leave yourself open to being possessed by realities that will end up destroying you. He gave the examples of using fear, or pride, or a goal to motivate our change and how giving ourselves over to those things would possess us and end up dismantling us. Do you agree, why or why not?
  
8. If Jesus doesn't possess us something else will, if he is not at the center something else will be. What are some practical ways that we can invite Jesus to possess all of us? To be at the center of our lives?
  
9. The lectionary chooses this passage to prepare us for celebrating Jesus death and resurrection by getting us to consider how Jesus' work on the cross defeats Satan. Look at Hebrews 2:14-15 and discuss the practical implications of Jesus' defeat of Satan.