

What Kind Is This?

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Mark 9:20-29 And they brought him unto him: and when he saw him, straightway the spirit tare him; and he fell on the ground, and wallowed foaming. And he asked his father, How long is it ago since this came unto him? And he said, Of a child. And oftentimes it hath cast him into the fire, and into the waters, to destroy him: but if thou canst do any thing, have compassion on us, and help us. Jesus said unto him, If thou canst believe, all things are possible to him that believeth. And straightway the father of the child cried out, and said with tears, Lord, I believe; help thou mine unbelief. When Jesus saw that the people came running together, he rebuked the foul spirit, saying unto him, Thou dumb and deaf spirit, I charge thee, come out of him, and enter no more into him. And the spirit cried, and rent him sore, and came out of him: and he was as one dead; insomuch that many said, He is dead. But Jesus took him by the hand, and lifted him up; and he arose. And when he was come into the house, his disciples asked him privately, Why could not we cast him out? And he said unto them, This kind can come forth by nothing, but by prayer and fasting.

- I. What did Jesus mean when He said, “This kind...?”
 - A. What was special about this case that made it different than other cases where they had cast out unclean spirits?
 - B. Here is the information we have to go on here:
 1. The boy had been this way for a long time.
 2. He was subject to some power outside of himself that repeatedly caused him physical harm and tried to destroy him – kill him.
 3. His mind was powerless against it and sunk into despression and defeat every time it happened.
 4. His heart was emptied of all affection and emotion except hopeless misery and the fear of pain and death.
 - C. He was “possessed” by an unclean spirit, which meant there was nothing in him left to work with.
 1. He could not be reasoned with.
 2. He had given over control of his mind to the point that he could no longer think on his own.
 3. His soul and spirit were being held captive and he was cut off from hearing and reason and truth – he had a deaf and dumb spirit.
 - D. What we need to know is how this boy got in this state.
 1. What happened that made him vulnerable to this terrible tragedy.
 2. How did this come about?
- II. The key to understanding this situation, and much more, is to understand that this is a spiritual matter.
 - A. We must correctly understand what a spirit is, what the Holy Spirit is, and what evil spirits are.
 - B. Spirit literally means breath; vitality; wind; rational being; vital principle
 1. It is what animates us, that part of us that receives information from the world around us, from God, and from evil spiritual powers.
 - C. Spirit – is that which links man with higher intelligence; his means of receiving knowledge from sources outside his physical senses.

- D. Soul – that part of man intermediate between spirit and body, where the affections and will reside.
- E. Body – the physical, fleshly, earthly tabernacle occupied by the spirit and soul while living in this world.
- F. Think of the spirit as the rudder of a ship, the steering wheel of a vehicle, the reins of a horse.
- G. Think of the spirit as the compass or the means by which you reckon everything about your life.
- H. Think of the spirit as another person who guides you on your journey, or the map that you refer to.
- I. Think of the spirit as your guidance system.
- J. The spirit can also act as a blocker to stop you from turning this way or that.

Galatians 5:17 For the flesh lusteth against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh: and these are contrary the one to the other: so that ye cannot do the things that ye would.

- K. The great battle in man is between the heart (soul) and the mind.
 1. The mind must operate in truth.
 2. The heart is where the affections and lust of man cry out for satisfaction.
 3. The spirit is in between and is listening for instructions and direction from outside sources; from sources beyond what he understands with his physical senses.
- L. A reprobate mind happens when the spirit of man rejects God's truth and counsel and replaces it with superstition and spiritual evil.
 1. There are those whose existence is just plain carnal lust and that is what guides them in everything they do.
 2. Then there are people who have gone beyond carnal lusts to evil spiritual lusts; they reckon life from an evil spiritual influence rather than simple selfish lusts.
 3. These people are actually worshipping the devil.

III. Our spirit communicates on a spiritual level and is influenced by other spirits.

1 Corinthians 2:14 But the natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God: for they are foolishness unto him: neither can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned.

- A. We either listen to God and truth or we listen to other voices, which are evil spirits themselves, or they are people who are under the control of evil spirits.
- B. If our spirit is subject to God and truth we are an independent individual fellowshipping with God and others whose spirits are in tune with God.
- C. If our spirit has been usurped by an unclean spirit then we have lost our own identity and we are a captive of the devil.

Ephesians 6:12 For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places.

- D. The disciples could not cast this evil malignant spirit out of this young man with their reasoning, preaching, facts, blame, analyzing, blaming, or any human means.
 1. He was spiritually deaf – he could not hear their spiritual arguments.
 2. He was spiritually dumb – he could not answer their questions, their suggestions, or their commands.
 3. His spirit was held captive – and the blame could not be laid on anyone but him.

E. Evil spirits talk to our mind and reason with us.

Genesis 3:1-5 Now the serpent was more subtil than any beast of the field which the LORD God had made. And he said unto the woman, Yea, hath God said, Ye shall not eat of every tree of the garden? And the woman said unto the serpent, We may eat of the fruit of the trees of the garden: But of the fruit of the tree which is in the midst of the garden, God hath said, Ye shall not eat of it, neither shall ye touch it, lest ye die. And the serpent said unto the woman, Ye shall not surely die: For God doth know that in the day ye eat thereof, then your eyes shall be opened, and ye shall be as gods, knowing good and evil.

1. Their method is always the same – they twist God’s words to confuse your mind, and misquote God by adding to, or taking away from his words.
 2. They make suggestions that cause your mind to question what you know God has said.
 3. They become bolder and bolder as their attempt to persuade you goes on, and they will finally flat out deny that what God has said is true.
- F. That voice you hear in your head that is debating with you about that long-established moral issue is an evil spirit talking to you.
1. Red lights should go off in your spirit and mind when you realize that there is a debate going on in your mind about crossing a line that your mind and conscience is telling you not to.
 2. It is evil spirits that have convinced so many to drop all standards of righteousness and separation from the wicked world around us.
 3. It is evil spirits that continue to do this in matters such as drinking alcohol.
- G. If you do not run to the Shepherd of your soul and the word of God that evil spirit will create enough doubt in your mind about God and truth that you will do exactly what Eve did and you will be taken captive by him.

2 Timothy 2:22-26 Flee also youthful lusts: but follow righteousness, faith, charity, peace, with them that call on the Lord out of a pure heart. But foolish and unlearned questions avoid, knowing that they do gender strifes. And the servant of the Lord must not strive; but be gentle unto all men, apt to teach, patient, In meekness instructing those that oppose themselves; if God peradventure will give them repentance to the acknowledging of the truth; And that they may recover themselves out of the snare of the devil, who are taken captive by him at his will.

1. Evil spirits do not stop when they get you to cross the line once.
 2. It is only the beginning and their goal is to have you in the same shape as this centurion’s son, and then dead and in hell.
- H. An evil spirit will suggest and encourage imaginations.
1. You will eventually begin to perceive these imaginations as reality.
- I. An evil spirit will stir your curiosity and urge you to seek answers from sources other than God and his word.
- J. The Holy Spirit of God will speak to our spirit, also, but it is very easily distinguished from an evil spirit.

John 10:27 My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me:

John 10:5 And a stranger will they not follow, but will flee from him: for they know not the voice of strangers.

1. Jesus promised that the Holy Spirit would be our comforter, not our tormentor.
2. He promised that the Holy Spirit would guide us into all truth – never into error, so we should try the spirits to see if they be of God.

1 John 4:1 Beloved, believe not every spirit, but try the spirits whether they are of God: because many false prophets are gone out into the world.

3. The Holy Spirit will debate with our mind, also, but He will advocate for holiness and truth.
4. If we listen to the Holy Spirit He will “convince” us of truth and that God’s way is the right way.
 - a) That means he will “satisfy the mind with evidence.”
5. The Holy Spirit will never argue or cast doubt upon the Word of God; if you hear that voice you can be absolutely certain that you are listening to the voice of an evil spirit, or someone who is controlled by an evil spirit.
6. Do you “listen” to the Holy Spirit as he tries to affirm truth to your mind and soul, or is there a debate about it always going on in your mind and heart?

IV. There are many voices in the world now – which ones are you listening to?

- A. Are you listening to those who are the loudest?
- B. Are you tuned in to the ones that have the strongest signal like you do with wifi?
- C. Or are you listening for the “voice of one crying in the wilderness?”
- D. Beware of the danger of becoming a captive of the devil.
- E. The young man was very blessed to have crossed paths with Jesus, and to have had a father who made sure he did.
- F. If you were to get yourself in this same condition, where there is no way out except prayer and fasting – who do you know that would pray and fast for your soul?
- G. God’s people are the light of the world and their presence in the midst of a crooked and perverse nation is the only hope for the lost.

Philippians 2:14-16 Do all things without murmurings and disputings: That ye may be blameless and harmless, the sons of God, without rebuke, in the midst of a crooked and perverse nation, among whom ye shine as lights in the world; Holding forth the word of life; that I may rejoice in the day of Christ, that I have not run in vain, neither laboured in vain.

1. When the light goes dim in the churches the voices of evil take over and that is where we are right now.
 2. This is their hour and the power of darkness – there is very little light and very much for the evil spirits to mock truth, righteousness, and God’s people about.
- H. BE that light that directs the spirits of other people to listen to the Holy Spirit of God and to turn away from all the voices of evil around us.
 - I. Instruct your children and others, and be keenly aware yourself, about those debates, questions, and suggestions that go on in your mind.
 1. It is not hard to tell who is talking to you – have some spiritual discernment.