

BATTLEGROUND: Fighting the Darkness

LUKE 11:14-28

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■ Central Church

■ October 15, 2023

■ Social Media: #BattleGrounds

To Fight the Darkness of the Times, We Expose the Darkness with the Truth.

1. Challenge the **Logic** of the Darkness (14-18, 21).
2. Confront the **Lies** of the Darkness (19).
3. Call Out the **Lifelessness** of the Darkness (16, 20-28).

Luke 11:14-28 (ESV)

Now he was casting out a demon that was mute. When the demon had gone out, the mute man spoke, and the people marveled. ¹⁵ But some of them said, "He casts out demons by Beelzebul, the prince of demons," ¹⁶ while others, to test him, kept seeking from him a sign from heaven. ¹⁷ But he, knowing their thoughts, said to them, "Every kingdom divided against itself is laid waste, and a divided household falls. ¹⁸ And if Satan also is divided against himself, how will his kingdom stand? For you say that I cast out demons by Beelzebul.

¹⁹ And if I cast out demons by Beelzebul, by whom do your sons cast them out? Therefore they will be your judges.

²⁰ But if it is by the finger of God that I cast out demons, then the kingdom of God has come upon you. ²¹ When a strong man, fully armed, guards his own palace, his goods are safe; 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. ²³ Whoever is not with me is against me, and whoever does not gather with me scatters. 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.' ²⁵ And when it comes, it finds the house swept and put in order. 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." ²⁷ As he said these things, a woman in the crowd raised her voice and said to him, "Blessed is the womb that bore you, and the breasts at which you nursed!" ²⁸ But he said, "Blessed rather are those who hear the word of God and keep it!"

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APPLICATION QUESTIONS

These questions are for further study and application of today's sermon. Thoughtfully writing out the answers to these questions will help your fight for life change. One of the best ways to grow in the body is by discussing the answers to these questions in a small group. Find one here: www.centralchurch.com/groups

1. What are several illogical areas of darkness we're confronted by within our family, society, and ourselves? God has called us to be "light" to the lost, not "fire." How do you challenge the prevailing logic without being a jerk?
2. Just as our society is built up on poor logic, there is an additional threat: the large-scale adoption of lies. At every level, our society is being lied to about who we are, what we were made to do, and where to go for help. The lies touch every segment of our personal lives (our sexual ethic, identity, perception before a holy God, sense of security, etc.). What lie has been embraced by those you are close to?
3. **Read John 3:1-16 and Ephesians 2:1-9.** Have you ever found that you can win an argument but the person you're talking to doesn't repent and trust in Christ? In verse 20, Jesus addresses the lifelessness in people who saw the "finger of God," and yet refused to worship the King. What does it take for someone who is spiritually dead to be made alive?

Quote for the Week. . .

by John Piper



"What is the one thing that cuts us off from heaven? The answer is unbelief. Not trusting God. Not living "by faith in the Son of God who loved us and gave Himself for us" (Gal. 2:20). So what does [1 Peter 1] verse 5 mean then when it says we are "protected [from losing our final salvation] by the power of God through faith." It means that God's power protects us for salvation by sustaining our faith. The only thing that can keep us from heaven is forsaking our faith in Christ, and turning to other hopes, other treasures. So to protect us God prevents that. He inspires and nourishes and strengthens and builds our faith. And in doing this he secures us against the only thing that could destroy us; unbelief, lack of trust in God."

John Piper, Sermon, The Elect Are Kept By the Power of God, October 17, 1993, www.desiringgod.org, Used by Permission.