

# “THE UNOCCUPIED LIFE”

MATTHEW 12:43-45

PROP: LIVING WITHOUT JESUS IS SPIRITUALLY DANGEROUS.

**INTRO:** IT DOES NOT MATTER WHERE YOUR CAR IS PARKED, IF IT’S UNOCCUPIED, IT’S VULNERABLE TO A BREAK IN.

**TRANS:** THERE IS A SPIRITUAL REALITY IN THIS ILLUSTRATION. THAT WHILE AN UNOCCUPIED CAR IS VULNERABLE, A LIFE WITHOUT JESUS IS VULNERABLE AS WELL.

## LIVING WITHOUT JESUS LEAVES YOU ACCESSIBLE TO UNCLEAN SPIRITS

JESUS SAYS “WHEN AN UNCLEAN SPIRIT COMES OUT OF A PERSON”

HE DOESN’T TELL US HOW OR WHY HE JUST SAYS WHEN IT LEAVES IT ROAMS AROUND LOOKING FOR A PLACE TO REST.

THIS IS HOW EVIL SPIRITS FUNCTION: **JOB 1:7** “GOD ASKS SATAN WHERE HAVE YOU COME FROM AND SATAN SAYS FROM ROAMING THE EARTH.” **1 PETER 5:8** THE DEVIL PROWLs AROUND....

JESUS DOESN’T JUST TELL US THE UNCLEAN SPIRIT ROAMS BUT IT ALSO RETURNS. **LOOK AT TEXT.**

THIS IS BECAUSE EVIL SPIRITS WANT TO INHABIT A PERSON. WHEN JESUS CASTS OUT THE LEGION OF DEMONS FROM A MAN THEY ASKED TO ENTER INTO A PACK OF PIGS.

**JOHN 13:27** “AFTER JUDAS ATE THE PIECE OF BREAD, SATAN ENTERED HIM. SO JESUS TOLD HIM, “WHAT YOU’RE DOING, DO QUICKLY.”

**THIS TEACHES THAT WITHOUT FAITH IN JESUS YOU BECOME A HOME FOR EVIL SPIRITS.**

**THIS IS GOOD NEWS HOWEVER FOR THE BELIEVER, BECAUSE IT MEANS WHEN YOUR FAITH IS IN JESUS YOU ARE NOT JUST SAVED BUT YOU ARE SEALED.**

LISTEN TO PAUL IN **EPHESIANS 1:13** “IN HIM YOU ALSO WERE SEALED WITH THE PROMISED HOLY SPIRIT WHEN YOU HEARD THE WORD OF TRUTH, THE GOSPEL OF YOUR SALVATION, AND WHEN YOU BELIEVED.”

HE SAYS IT THIS WAY IN **1 COR. 3:16** “DON’T YOU YOURSELVES KNOW THAT YOU ARE GOD’S TEMPLE AND THAT THE SPIRIT OF GOD LIVES IN YOU?”

**AS A BELIEVER YOU DON’T EVER HAVE TO BE AFRAID OF BEING DEMONED POSSESSED.**

NOW UNCLEAN SPIRITS MAY NOT BE ABLE TO LIVE IN YOU BUT THEY CAN CERTAINLY TEMPT YOU.  
**MATT 4:1-11 – THE TEMPTATION OF JESUS**

**JAMES 4:7** “SUBMIT TO GOD, RESIST THE DEVIL AND HE WILL FLEE FROM YOU

AS BELIEVERS WE DON'T NEED DELIVERANCE MINISTRIES TO CAST ANYTHING OUT OF US. WE JUST NEED TO SUBMIT TO THE ONE WHO LIVES INSIDE OF US.

**ILLUSTRATION:** HOUSE WITH AN ALARM SIGN IS GOOD. BUT IF SOMEONE HAS BEEN IN YOUR HOUSE THEY KNOW WHERE YOU KEEP THINGS SO HAVING SOMEONE IN THE HOUSE IS BETTER. (STORY ABOUT PLUMBER)

**APPLICATION:** WHEN YOU PUT YOUR FAITH IN CHRIST YOU ARE OCCUPIED 24 HOURS A DAY

## **LIVING WITHOUT JESUS BLINDS YOU TO YOUR SPIRITUAL CONDITION**

JESUS SAYS “*RETURNING, IT FINDS THE HOUSE VACANT, SWEEPED AND PUT IN ORDER*”

WHEN THE UNCLEAN SPIRIT LEFT, THE MAN BEGAN CHANGING HIS LIFE.  
“SWEEPED, PUT IN ORDER”

### **THIS TEACHES US THAT MORALITY IS NOT NECESSARILY EVIDENCE OF SALVATION**

MORALITY IS DANGEROUS. IT MEANS ANYONE WHO HAS NOT PUT THEIR FAITH IN JESUS IS SUSCEPTIBLE TO SPIRITUAL BLINDENESS. THEY CAN'T SEE THEIR TRUE CONDITION.

THIS IS WHY JESUS SAYS IN **JOHN 5:39-40** “YOU PORE OVER THE SCRIPTURES BECAUSE YOU THINK YOU HAVE ETERNAL LIFE IN THEM, AND YET THEY TESTIFY ABOUT ME. BUT YOU ARE NOT WILLING TO COME TO ME SO THAT YOU MAY HAVE LIFE.”

I'VE HEARD IT SAID THAT “THE MESSAGE OF THE BIBLE IS NOT TO “BE GOOD” BUT TO “BE MADE GOOD” THROUGH JESUS CHRIST'S SACRIFICE ON THE CROSS.”

THIS IS WHY THE BIBLE SAYS IN **HEBREWS 9:22** “ACCORDING TO THE LAW ALMOST EVERYTHING IS PURIFIED WITH BLOOD, AND WITHOUT THE SHEDDING OF BLOOD THERE IS NO FORGIVENESS”

SEE SAVED PEOPLE BECOME MORAL PEOPLE (WE BECOME CONFORMED TO THE IMAGE OF CHRIST) BUT MORAL PEOPLE DON'T ALWAYS BECOME SAVED PEOPLE. (THAT ONLY HAPPENS BY FAITH)

**AS A MATTER OF FACT, THE REASON SOME DO GOOD IS BECAUSE THEY ARE TOO OLD TO BE BAD.** (RUNNING THE STREETS)

**THE REASON SOME DO GOOD IS ALSO BASED ON SHARED CONVICTIONS:** EVERYBODY AGREES THAT MURDER IS WRONG, STEALING IS WRONG AND LYING IS WRONG.

BUT DOING GOOD NEVER PRODUCES SALVATION WHICH LEAVES YOUR LIFE IN SPIRITUAL DANGER.

**ILLUSTRATION:** I HAVE A HABIT OF PUTTING MY CLOTHES IN THE WRONG PLACE. ONE DAY I WENT IN THE CLOSET AND GOT A PAIR OF PANTS, IRONED, LOOKED CLEAN BUT WERE NOT WASHED.

**APPLICATION:** ARE YOU WASHED OR ARE YOU JUST STARTCHED?

## **LIVING WITHOUT JESUS STRENGTHENS THE BONDAGE TO SIN**

JESUS TELLS US THAT THE UNCLEAN SPIRIT WENT AND GOT 7 MORE SPIRITS WORSE THAN HIMSELF. *"THEY ENTERED AND SETTLED DOWN"* : ITS LIKE THEY BECAME SPIRITUAL SQUATTERS.

AND THE MAN WAS WORSE THAN HE WAS AT FIRST.

**THIS TEACHES US THAT WITHOUT JESUS A PERSON IS CAPABLE OF DOING ANYTHING.**

BUT FOR THE BELIEVER WE HAVE THE HOLY SPIRIT LIVING IN US SO THAT WE CAN LIVE BY THE SPIRIT AND NOT BY THE FLESH.

THIS MEANS THE BELIEVER STILL WRESTLES WITH TWO NATURES.

**GAL 5:16-18** "I SAY, THEN, WALK BY THE SPIRIT AND YOU WILL CERTAINLY NOT CARRY OUT THE DESIRE OF THE FLESH. FOR THE FLESH DESIRES WHAT IS AGAINST THE SPIRIT, AND THE SPIRIT DESIRES WHAT IS AGAINST THE FLESH; THESE ARE OPPOSED TO EACH OTHER, SO THAT YOU DON'T DO WHAT YOU WANT. BUT IF YOU ARE LED BY THE SPIRIT, YOU ARE NOT UNDER THE LAW.

"KEEP ME FROM PRESUMPTIOUS SIN" THIS MEANS WE FIGHT AGAINST SIN RATHER THAN GIVE INTO IT.

THERE IS AN INDICTMENT MADE AGAINST CHRISTIANS THAT WE LIVE UNDER GRACE AND LIVE HOWEVER WE WANT AND THAT'S NOT TRUE.

**ROMANS 6:1-2** "SHOULD WE CONTINUE IN SIN SO THAT GRACE MAY MULTIPLY, ABSOLUTLEY NOT"

**PSALMS 119:11** "I HAVE HIDDEN YOUR WORD IN MY HEART THAT I MAY NOT SIN AGAINST YOU"

THE CHRISTIAN LIFE IS NOT LIVED OUT OF FEAR OF BREAKING THE RULES BUT IN FAITHFULNESS MOTIVATED BY THE LOVE OF THE RULER.

THE GOOD NEWS FOR THE BELIEVER IS THAT BY GRACE WE HAVE THE SPIRIT LIVING IN US SO THAT WE ARE ABLE TO DO THE WILL OF GOD FROM THE HEART.

UNTIL A PERSON HAS FAITH IN JESUS HE DOESN'T KNOW THE LOVE OF GOD AND THEREFORE CAN NOT LOVE GOD BACK IN RETURN..... **FOR THE JOHN 3:16.....**

### **HOW DOES A PERSON KEEP THESE THINGS FROM HAPPENING?**

ACCEPT THAT THEY ARE A SINNER IN NEED OF SAVING, BELIEVE THAT JESUS IS THE SAVIOR OF THE WORLD, CONFESS THAT JESUS DIED AND WAS RAISED FROM THE DEAD SO THEY COULD BE SAVED.