



Campbell Chapel

Sermon by Bob Bradley



Are you following Jesus?

Sunday, November 25, 2018

Bob Bradley

Matthew 12:43 **When the unclean spirit is gone out of a man, he walketh through dry places, seeking rest, and findeth none.**

Matthew 12:44 **Then he saith, I will return into my house from whence I came out; and when he is come, he findeth *it* empty, swept, and garnished.**

Matthew 12:45 **Then goeth he, and taketh with himself seven other spirits more wicked than himself, and they enter in and dwell there: and the last *state* of that man is worse than the first. Even so shall it be also unto this wicked generation.**

I want to talk this morning just for a few moments about a man, about a person. You can put yourself in this story. I want you to do that.

The Bible says here...

Matthew 12:43 **When the unclean spirit is gone out of a man, he walketh through dry places, seeking rest, and findeth none.**

I want you to think about something. I want you to think about who you are. I want you to think about your life in general just for a moment. I know that we live in a world today where people think that we need to be reformed and reformation does a lot of good things. However, men need to be more than reformed today. They need to be regenerated today. We need to be born again today.

I thought about this individual that Jesus here is talking about. No doubt, He is talking about the nation of Israel. We know that they went to Babylon. We know the 70 years they spent in Babylon; we know that drove out the idolatry that was there. That cleaned them from idolatry.

I thought about us. Every one of us this morning; I thought about us. I thought about the day, if you have ever been saved; I thought about the day that we got saved, the day that we were born again, the day that we asked Jesus Christ into our life. I thought about that day and how good that it was and how great that we felt on that day.

Matthew 12:44 **Then he saith, I will return into my house from whence I came out; and when he is come, he findeth *it* empty, swept, and garnished.**

The Bible that this guy here—his is house is swept and garnished.

Can you remember now how you felt when you first got saved? You felt so good on the inside. You were cleaned up. Do you know what the Bible tells us? The things we may have done were all gone now.

The Bible says that an unclean spirit is gone out of a man.

When you and I got saved, the unclean spirit went out of our lives. Jesus Christ saved us and came into our lives. He sat upon the throne of our hearts and we were born into the family of God. Do you know what we did? We did everything that we could to quit all of our bad habits. We tried everything we could and there is so many things that we got rid of. We quit our drinking. We quit our cursing. We quit our immorality. We quit all those things. We quit stealing. We quit all kinds of things when the Lord saved us and He cleaned us up. That was a great and wonderful feeling.

I thought about this man here. The Bible says when the unclean spirit went out of him.

Can you remember the day that God saved you? Can you remember the day that when the enemy left you? Can you remember the day when you were cleaned up? You knew you had become a brand-new creature in Christ. If you have ever been born again friend, you know that for sure.

Matthew 12:43 **When the unclean spirit is gone out of a man, he walketh through dry places, seeking rest, and findeth none**

The evil spirits that are within this man walk through dry places seeking rest and finding none. Do you know what the evil spirits that has been cast out of us; do you know what they do? They go. They don't stop. When God saves us the evil spirits that were within us, all the wickedness that was there, and we may have been possessed by more than one spirit or one evil spirit. However, they were cast out of us. Do you know what these evil spirits are doing? The Bible says they are walking through dry places seeking rest and they are not finding any.

Do you remember the day that Jesus was in Gadara? He went on over there. He met a man over there that had all the hogs. You remember them and what happened there on that day when he cast the spirits out of that man. They went into the hogs. Do you know what they were looking for? They were looking for a place to enter in. He had cast them out of a man but they wanted to enter into the swine. They needed somewhere to abide.

Listen. The same evil spirits that were cast out of you, on the day you were saved; they have not left you. They have not abandoned you.

Get this. They are going to come knocking. They are going to come knocking on your door.

Listen. God has saved us. God has regenerated us and we have been born again. However, the evilness and the wickedness and the evil spirits that were cast out of us— don't you think that they are not going to come knocking because they are.

Listen. You are going to be tempted. If you were a drunk, do you know what the evil spirit is going to do? He is going to come and try to get you to get drunk. If you lived an immoral life, do you know what is going to happen to you? He is going to try to get you to live an immoral life. If you lied, he wants you to be a liar. If you are a thief, he wants you to be a thief. The evil spirits are there. They are all around us. If you will be honest to me and with yourself; they still yet come knocking. You may have been saved for a long time but they still yet come knocking.

The house is clean. We know that it is clean. That is great. It needs to be clean. I want you to understand something. It takes more than the Lord casting evil spirits out of our hearts. Do you know what we need to be doing? We need to be filling our hearts and our lives with His work and His service and His love and His concern for people.

Do you know what we want to do? Getting saved is great and we need to do that.

Listen. We need to allow Him to fill our house so that when the evil spirits come knocking and they will; do you know what we will be able to do? There is no place for them in here. Amen!

Get this. There is a lesson here for all of us. This guy had one evil spirit that was in him. He leaves. He leaves. He is cast out. He is gone. This evil spirit is gone. This guy's house is cleaned up. It is empty. It is swept. It is garnished.

It is like a house that you may want to rent. It is like a house that you are getting cleaned up so that you can rent it. You paint the walls. You shampoo the carpet. You fix all the lights. You do everything that needs to be done but there is no tenant in there.

Listen. If we don't allow the God of heaven even after we are cleaned up, if we don't allow Him to infiltrate us and fill us with His goodness and His service; then do you know what is going to happen? The enemy is going to come knocking. He is going to come knocking with the same thing that has been cast out of you. He is not going to let you alone as long as you are in this world. He is going to come knocking. Do you know what he is going to do? He is going to be very persistent. If you have not filled your life with the love of God, if you have not filled your life with service to Almighty God; if you haven't committed your life totally to Almighty God, he is going to come knocking. He is going to continue to knock.

Listen. It gets so easy to go right back to the same thing that God has saved us from, the same wickedness that we used to do; it gets to so easy to go back to that when we don't allow God to fill us with His presence and with His power and with His service and with His glory. We go right back to the same thing that we used to do.

That is what happened to this guy. The house is clean. It is swept. It is garnished. It is all clean on the inside. Everything is clean. The evil spirit is gone. The evil spirit is our here walking through dry places seeking a place to rest. He is seeking a place called home. He is seeking a place where he can come and inhabit and indwell. That is what evil spirits do. He is looking for a place. The evil spirit had a thought. This is what I am

going to do. I'm going to go right back to the house where I just left from, the very house that I left from; he calls it his house. Read the story. He calls this house, his house. He says, I am going to go back to the same house I was cast out of, the same house I left. I'm going to go back.

How many times in your life, since you have been saved has the enemy come knocking. If you are a drunk, if you are an alcoholic, if you have been delivered from drugs, or immorality or whatever the sin may be; how many times does that same spirit come knocking at your door. He comes knocking. Do you know what he finds a lot of times? ...He finds us just like he finds this guy, doing nothing.

Our house is clean. Its swept. Its garnished. Everything is fine. However, there is no commitment in our life. We have never allowed the Lord to fill our lives. We are not doing anything for God. We go to church once a week or whatever, or every now and then. We don't pray. We don't study our bibles. We don't go on visitation. We never do anything that brings glory to God. We never do anything that allows the Lord to fill our lives. When the enemy, the evil spirit comes knocking, do you know what he finds? He finds a welcome place in our life.

The Bible says when he comes to his house...

Matthew 12:44 **Then he saith, I will return into my house from whence I came out; and when he is come, he findeth it empty, swept, and garnished.**

Ask yourself a question this morning. If you are saved today, what is primary in your life? What do you spend most of your time on? What do you spend most of your time thinking about? What is the most important thing in this house? Is it filled with the glory of God? Is it filled with the presence of God?

When he comes knocking and your life is filled with the glory of God; do you know what you can automatically say? Get away from me satan. I'm done with that junk. I'm done with that foolishness. I'm done with that sin. I have been saved by a righteous and holy God. I don't want to offend Him. I'm not going to do that. That is easy to do when your life is filled with God's glory. You have a purpose and some spirituality about you. You have grown up a little bit spiritually. You have allowed the Lord to give you something to do. You know you are filled with what God has asked you to do. When he comes knocking, do you know what you can do? You can resist that. I'm not going to do that. Satan, you might as well move on; I'm not going to do that. He comes to your house and if he finds it empty, swept and garnished. Do you know what he is going to do?

Get this. He is going to go get some of his buddies. I read it to you. It is there. He is going to go get 7 of his buddies and they are going to come back. They are going to come back and they all are going to be knocking. We want in. This is my house. This is my house. You have not allowed the Lord to fill you. You have not allowed the Lord...and you have never committed anything to the Lord. There is nothing in your life that you have committed to God. Really. Here you are empty. You are just like an

empty vessel waiting for somebody to come along and pour something in it. When you are empty, I promise you something; the evil spirits are going to come knocking. It is all going to look good. It is going to look fine. It is going to look pretty. The temptation comes to go back to the drinking, to the lying, to the stealing, to the cheating, to the gossiping, to being lazy or whatever it is. It is a whole lot easier to say, come on in man. Come on in. Do you know what he does? He brings his 7 other buddies with him. He brings his friends with him.

Did you ever see people who used to go to church? They used to be filled with God's glory. They used to do great things for God and was committed to God and they got involved in whatever and walked away from God. I met a whole bunch of them. They are very wicked people today. They are very immoral people today. They are people that are hooked on drugs today. They listen to the voice of the evil spirit. Their house was swept, clean, and garnished. Everything was fine. Just waiting on a tenant.

Instead of allowing the Lord to fill our hearts, lives and house; we left it wide open and the enemy came. He brought some of his friends. Not only now do you have one issues, but you have 7 other issues. You have a whole lot more issues than you ever had before the evil spirit left.

The Bible says...

Matthew 12:45 **Then goeth he, and taketh with himself seven other spirits more wicked than himself, and they enter in and dwell there: and the last state of that man is worse than the first. Even so shall it be also unto this wicked generation.**

There were seven other spirits that were more wicked than the one that left. He brings these 7 other spirits back with him. You might think I'm crazy. I'm not crazy at all. There is wickedness in this land. There are evil spirits all around us. They are very powerful. They are very persuasive. When they come to your house and your house is empty; then that is exactly what they are looking for. That is exactly what they are looking for—a house that is empty. The Bible says this guy brings with him 7 other spirits worse than himself. They were more wicked than himself.

Matthew 12:45 **Then goeth he, and taketh with himself seven other spirits more wicked than himself, and they enter in and dwell there: and the last state of that man is worse than the first. Even so shall it be also unto this wicked generation.**

Do you know what the evil spirits do? They come in and they make themselves at home. They make themselves at home. That is what the word dwell there means. It means to be at home. It means to abide. They dwell there. They make it their home, their dwelling place.

Get this.

Matthew 12:45 **Then goeth he, and taketh with himself seven other spirits more wicked than himself, and they enter in and dwell there: and the last state of that man is worse than the first. Even so shall it be also unto this wicked generation.**

Listen. When we don't allow the Lord to fill us with his presence and with his glory, and with his and with his purpose and plan for our lives; we may be swept, garnished. We may be all cleaned up. We may quit all of our bad habits. We may not do this or we may not do that. Listen. The evil spirit is going to come knocking and he is going to bring some of his buddies with him. If we don't allow the Lord to fill us then we leave ourselves wide open for satan and the enemy. When he comes, he comes with a vengeance. He comes with his friends. He comes with his buddies. Now instead of having one demon, this guy has eight of them and the last state of this guy is worse than the first. He is a whole lot worse off now than he was before the evil spirit ever left him.

Listen. It is a serious thing not to allow God to fill you, to have control of you; so, your life can be filled with His presence, with His glory, with His purpose, with His plan.

If I would ask you this morning, what is your plan? What is the plan that God has for you? Do you know what most of you would say? I have no idea. I have no idea. I don't know what God wants me to do.

Listen. You can know that. Listen to the right voice because there are many spirits knocking. Many spirits want in your house. Many spirits want to control you. Amen! However, God has a plan. God has a purpose. Allow Him to fill your life. Follow His plan for your life. Allow Him to fill you tee totally up to the brim with His presence, with His goodness, and with His purpose. When satan comes knocking, he will tempt us. Sure, he will.

Do you know what? He will tempt us. Sure, he will. He will aggravate us. Most definitely he will. Do you know what we can say? Get behind me satan. I'm listening to the voice of Almighty God. I'm listening. I'm following my Lord. I'm listening to my Savior. I'm following Him. I'm not going to follow you anymore.

Where are you at today? Are you following Jesus Christ today? Are you allowing Him to fill your heart and your life with His goodness and with His love; with His purpose and with His plan. Are you allowing Him to do that today? Are you just swept and garnished? Have you just cleaned everything up and not let anything move in. That is a dangerous place to be.

Come and pray—