

Luke 11:14-28 (NIV)

14 Jesus was driving out a demon that was mute. When the demon left, the man who had been mute spoke, and the crowd was amazed. 15 But some of them said, "By Beelzebub, the prince of demons, he is driving out demons." 16 Others tested him by asking for a sign from heaven. 17 Jesus knew their thoughts and said to them: "Any kingdom divided against itself will be ruined, and a house divided against itself will fall. 18 If Satan is divided against himself, how can his kingdom stand? I say this because you claim that I drive out demons by Beelzebub. 19 Now if I drive out demons by Beelzebub, by whom do your followers drive them out? So then, they will be your judges. 20 But if I drive out demons by the finger of God, then the kingdom of God has come to you. 21 "When a strong man, fully armed, guards his own house, his possessions are safe. 22 But when someone stronger attacks and overpowers him, he takes away the armor in which the man trusted and divides up the spoils. 23 "He who is not with me is against me, and he who does not gather with me, scatters. 24 "When an evil spirit comes out of a man, it goes through arid places seeking rest and does not find it. Then it says, 'I will return to the house I left.' 25 When it arrives, it finds the house swept clean and put in order. 26 Then it goes and takes seven other spirits more wicked than itself, and they go in and live there. And the final condition of that man is worse than the first." 27 As Jesus was saying these things, a woman in the crowd called out, "Blessed is the mother who gave you birth and nursed you." 28 He replied, "Blessed rather are those who hear the word of God and obey it."

"I'll be Switzerland." I searched in vain for the origins of this quote, but I came up empty. However, I think the point can still be made. Switzerland is well-known for its neutrality in military conflicts. People can often be like Switzerland when it comes to conflict in their lives. They sometimes don't want to take sides on an issue. They'd rather ride in the middle than take a side and be wrong. Reading this portion from Luke 11 brought that quote back into my mind.

Jesus was driving out demons. Many people were very grateful for this. But his enemies didn't enjoy it at all because it increased his popularity and prestige. So, they accused him of driving out demons in the name of Satan. Jesus then goes on to show them just how foolish of a notion that is. A house that is divided against itself cannot stand. Why would Satan drive himself out of influence? He wouldn't. Only the enemy of Satan, those aligned with God, would ever drive out demons.

That brings us back to the quote, *"I'll be Switzerland."* Some people feel that they can take the middle road when it comes to following God or following Satan. But they are wrong. There is no middle road. You are either for God or you are for Satan. If you are not for God then you are automatically for Satan. That's what Jesus means when he says, *"He who is not with me is against me."* If Jesus is not a part of your life, then Satan will be! Can you appreciate the gravity of that statement? That's what Jesus is describing when he talks about the spirit returning with seven spirits even more wicked than he. If there is a void in the heart of man that isn't filled with God's Word, it will be filled with Satan and his servants.

That's why Jesus points us back to his Word. The Word can fell Satan. It can drive him out of the hearts of man. Those who hear the Word and by faith obey it are blessed to be on God's side and free of Satan. Only by the grace of God can we be blessed in such a way. Jesus came to this earth to give us that blessing. He's offered to us by cleaning out the sinful residents of our heart and replacing them with the Holy Spirit. Don't kick him out! Don't let your heart remain vacant. Because in this battle, there's no such place as Switzerland!