

House Cleaning:

Luke 11:14~26 And he was casting out a devil, and it was dumb. And it came to pass, when the devil was gone out, the dumb spake; and the people wondered. But some of them said, He casteth out devils through Beelzebub the chief of the devils. And others, tempting him, sought of him a sign from heaven. But he, knowing their thoughts, said unto them, **Every kingdom divided against itself is brought to desolation; and a house divided against a house falleth.** If Satan also be divided **against himself**, how shall his kingdom stand? Because ye say that I cast out devils through Beelzebub. And if I by Beelzebub cast out devils, by whom do your sons cast them out? **Therefore shall they be your judges.** But if I with the finger of God cast out devils, no doubt **the kingdom of God is come upon you.** When a strong man armed keepeth his palace, his goods are in peace: But when a stronger than he shall come upon him, and overcome him, **he taketh from him all his armour wherein he trusted**, and divideth his spoils. He that is not with me is against me: and he that gathereth not with me scattereth. When the **unclean spirit** is gone out of a man, he walketh through dry places, seeking rest; and finding none, he saith, **I will return unto my house whence I came out.** And when he cometh, he findeth it **swept and garnished.** Then goeth he, and taketh to him 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.**

*Yahshua is seen doing a great service by casting out an unclean spirit, a devil, from a person but is accused of doing so by the evil power of Beelzebub rather than by the power of Yah. Notice Yahshua's response in verse 17: "But He (Yahshua), knowing their thoughts, said unto them; **every kingdom divided against itself is brought to desolation; and a house divided against a house falleth.**" Every kingdom, either of Yah's or the kingdom of this world led by Satan, divided against itself cannot stand. As Satan never does good to trump his evil, Yah also never does evil to trump His good. Each fulfills his respective goal in establishing their kingdom.*

One would be in error in saying that Yah initiates error into our lives so He may become our Savior-rescuer when we call out to Him for help. If that indeed were the situation, He would essentially be saving us from Himself and that would be illogical. Yet how many times do we see the evil-Savior role in the world with that exact scenario. Satan, being evil, presents himself as an angel of light often appears as doing good, only to catch the victim unexpectedly in his evil snare. If his motives were not genuinely evil it would be counterproductive; he would be fighting against himself. This is the exact event that Yahshua is accused of doing in this passage: casting out unclean spirits with the power of Satan and not that of Yah. This is blasphemy, the unpardonable sin, giving credit for a blessing to a hidden power rather than Yah.

Lk 11:18~20 If Satan also be divided **against himself**, how shall his kingdom stand? Because ye say that I cast out devils through Beelzebub. And if I by Beelzebub cast out devils, by whom do your sons cast them out? **Therefore shall they be your judges.** But if I with the finger of God cast out devils, no doubt the kingdom of God is come upon you.

*Yahshua puts them on the defensive by using their own logic in answering them. "If I by Beelzebub (Baal, the god of evil) cast out devils, by whom do your sons cast them out? **Therefore shall they be your judges.**" In other words, as you have judged me you also at the same time have judged yourself of the same evil.*

Ro 2: 1~13 Therefore thou art inexcusable, O man, whosoever thou art that **judgest**: for wherein thou **judgest another, thou condemnest thyself**; for thou that judgest **doest the same things.** But we are sure that the judgment of God is according to truth against them which commit such things. And thinkest thou this, O man, that judgest them which do such things, and doest the same, that thou shalt escape the judgment of God? Or despisest thou the riches of his goodness and forbearance and longsuffering; not knowing that the goodness of God leadeth thee to repentance? But after thy hardness and impenitent heart treasurest up

unto thyself wrath against the day of wrath and revelation of the righteous judgment of God; **Who will render to every man according to his deeds:** To them who by patient continuance in well doing seek for glory and honour and immortality, eternal life: But unto them that are contentious, and do not obey the truth, but obey unrighteousness, indignation and wrath, Tribulation and anguish, upon every soul of man that doeth evil, of the Jew first, and also of the Gentile; But glory, honour, and peace, to every man that worketh good, to the Jew first, and also to the Gentile: For there is no respect of persons with God. For as many as have sinned **without law** shall also **perish** without law: and as many as have sinned **in the law** shall be **judged by the law; For not the hearers of the law are just before God, but the doers of the law shall be justified.**

*The word judge in this verse is referring to the act of condemning and is not to be confused with one's ability to discern right from wrong. Here these persons have gone beyond discerning right from wrong and render a verdict associated with condemnation and punishment. Note also how Yah will judge those that are following Him **according to His law** as opposed to those that are without His law which **will perish**.*

Lk 11:21~23 When a strong man **armed** keepeth his palace, his goods are in peace: But when a stronger than he shall come upon him, and overcome him, he taketh from him all his **armour wherein he trusted**, and divideth his spoils. He that is not with me is against me: and he that gathereth not with me scattereth.

*This is a warning: As we become unaware letting down our guard, those stronger can take from us our goods. The stronger does this by taking **our armor** in which **we trust**. This could be one's strength, weaponry, wit, power, money, etc. anything one puts **trust in** for defense. This could also be Yah, if we are wise, as we stand in His shadow. Most importantly, **the thief takes what you trust in first** and then proceeds to take your goods, whether they are physical or spiritual possessions. You are left defenseless, with no armor to **trust in**, overcome by a stronger power. This scenario displays the stupidity of man as we trust in all sorts of external worldly supports rather than trusting in the giver of all power, our Creator Yah.*

*The last part of the verse is interesting, in that it says: "He that is not with me is against me: and he that gathers not with me scatters." Yahshua is referring both to those with whom He is presently speaking and to all those who deny His authority as the Son of Yah, having power over evil. Those not with Him in their walk are really against Him as shown either by their action or lack of action, their **unbelief**.*

*Combining the previous verses, we now can see that Yahshua is referring to those that are denying His power as the Son of Yah, the Christ, while comparing them to a house divided against itself. The house that Yahshua is referring to is their house, the house of Israel. For there are some who believe that He is the Christ and there are some that see Him in error, luring the people away from the ruling party, The Jewish Religion. This is the house that Yahshua was sent to, His people, the Israelites, to call them into remembrance of the way to walk according to the covenant. Yet the nation of Israel was not receptive to that calling as this message says: "**a house divided against itself will fall**" just as the house of Israel has done. This entire lesson was a witness to them and also to us who have ears to hear. The word is a double edged sword working both ways: For our good, **if** used wisely and at the same time against us **if** we error. It's up to us to decide upon its application.*

Next we see a most revealing and enlightening message from this scripture.

Lk 11:24~26 When the **unclean spirit** is gone out of a man, he walketh through dry places, seeking rest; and finding none, he saith, **I will return unto my house whence I came out**. And when he cometh, **he findeth it swept and garnished**. Then goeth he, and taketh to him 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.

This references an unclean evil spirit that leaves a person or is sent out of a man in which the demon once lived and controlled. Now having been cast out, this unclean evil spirit walks in a dry place, outside of the living creature, having neither life nor a living soul to possess. This is the exact event that had just occurred as Yahshua cast out an evil spirit, a devil out of the dumb man allowing the man to speak. Thus this physical act is an example highlighting the spiritual state of humanity.

*This evil spirit is looking for a host in which he can possess, control and live in: **“I will return to my house where I came from.”** Note the evil spirit refers to the host as **“my house,”** showing that he **was the authority** of that house, the controller. As with most battles, we retreat only to fight another day, until conquest is achieved. On his return the evil spirit finds that house, the person, swept clean, fresh and garnished from the evil that had once ruled him. Then that evil spirit taking seven others more wicked than himself, once again gaining control of this dwelling.*

*Garnished #2885. kosmew to put in proper order, decorate; specially, **to snuff** (as a wick) adorn, garnish, trim (as trimming a lamp).*

Note the reference to snuff as a candle wick, to trim, to put a light force out, as a warning of the light of truth being snuffed out. So what happened? All was looking well, the house was cleaned and garnished and for a moment it seemed to be at peace. You would think that by this cleaning the person would have overcome that evil spirit and is now saved by Christ. It was at peace until that unclean spirit, the former occupant, return's now joined by seven others claiming residence again.

*Notice the symbols: The unclean spirit refers to Satan; the house refers to the house of Israel or one that is grafted in. The house is now recorded as being swept and garnished by Yahshua overpowering the once controlling evil spirit. So what is missing? The clean house, denoting the repentant man has been purged of the evil spirit. The evil spirit was snuffed out and the house was made **void** of that ruling occupant. The man is free at last; free at last, thank God we are free at last...or are we?*

*Please note the significance: The man is now **void**; there is no occupant controlling him. Victory at last one may think, but one would be incorrect for one might as well be putting up a vacancy sign: **“Immediate Occupancy Available.”** Although the man cleaned out **“the old self”** controlled by the evil spirit, he has not taken in a new occupant, Yahshua, the Spirit of Truth. Yes, he rid himself of error but there is no one with authority living there at the moment, **the house is vacant**. So as this evil spirit returns from that dry land, there is no one or any armor to **trust in** that would protect him from being taken over again by the same evil spirit and his even more evil friends. Remember, possession is 9/10th of the law. You are whom you serve, and you serve that which controls you.*

Taking a look at it again from a different perspective, a balance scale will be used to illustrate the following: good on one side refers to the positive, evil on the opposite side, refers to the negative or minus to explain what is transpiring.

*On this above mentioned scale, the house, referring to the man possessed with evil, is in the minus, a negative. Yahshua then comes as a cleansing offering and if accepted, his house is cleansed of evil, and so the man has now become a zero on the scale. The house, the man, is no longer a minus because he has moved from being a negative up to the zero mark. He is not a plus, until he adds a new positive Spirit into his life, the Holy Spirit, a ruling positive force. It is this Spirit of Yah's in which we can **trust** to successfully fight our battles protecting us in time of need. It is under Yah's wing that there is strength, the armor of Yah in which one must put trust.*

2 Tim 2:19~21 Nevertheless the foundation of God standeth sure, having this seal, The Lord knoweth them that are his. And, Let every one that nameth the name of Christ **depart from iniquity**. But in a great house

there are not only vessels of gold and of silver, but also of wood and of earth; and some to honour, and some to dishonour. **If a man therefore purge himself** from these, he shall be a vessel unto honour, sanctified, and meet for the master's use, and prepared unto every good work.

Let's present another illustration bringing relevance to this message into our everyday experience where it may touch us with its meaning.

Consider yourself as a cup, one of the vessels, a receptacle to hold His Holy Spirit, which the Master Builder Yah has formed. Each person is meant to be a walking temple of Yah where He may dwell. He calls you from the muck and mire in which you are living to repent and receive His Holy Spirit as a down payment of your inheritance. Your cup initially is filthy with sin of the "old self." You proceed to pour the dirty water out, your past errors, to empty the cup. Your empty cup now awaits clean water for washing. This is the most vulnerable time in anyone's walk. At this moment one can go either way. Whatever possesses your cup at this moment will lead you. If the cup is left void for any length of time it will become dirty again. This is similar to the physical aspect of life. The air itself will contaminate the cup and anything around it. Yes, it's the prince of the power of the air, Satan, who controls this earthly kingdom at the moment. If you turn the cup upside down, as some of us do, it remains unsoiled, but it also keeps it inactive, out of use. That isn't a productive use, but in glorious contrast one can have ones cup filled with His Holy Spirit becoming a light to the world to serve the Creator.

So how does one empty the old water...sin and fill oneself with the new without becoming vulnerable to outside sources? This feat is accomplished by filling your cup at the same time you are emptying it. By doing so you are really just changing occupants by getting rid of a bad tenant and allowing your new tenant the ability to move in, take over, and force out the old one. By filling the cup with new water, we are forcing the old water to rise to the top, as scum does, overflow our cup until it's completely filled, replaced with new clean water.

If we have a problem of purging ourselves of a sinful habit which continually repeats itself, perchance we have not replaced it with new clean habit. A void in our life like a vacuum must be filled or it will be satisfied by past behavior, our returning to the old self. Some common examples of poor substitutes are: smoking and gaining weight. One stops smoking, only to substitute something else in one's mouth, so you eat to fill that void. Yes I stopped smoking, but now I'm over weight. One diets and exercises to lose weight, and stops at the achieved goal, but only for a moment. Then we are taken over again by cravings to fill a void and the gain in weight inexorably follows.

The physical world is the prelude to the spiritual world. If we are unable to master the one, we will not be able to master the other.

Inherent in the art of successful dieting is replacing bad food intake with good food to overcome bad eating habits. The result now focuses food craving into a regime of eating healthier foods in set amounts spaced evenly over a day. The craving, the desire to be filled is still there, but is now being replaced with good nutrition. Success was achieved by the intake of good food which fought the battle for you. All you had to do is accept it and fill yourself with it. By doing so, it was good food that killed the beast of uncontrolled desire. It is the same scenario with the intake of Yah's Holy Spirit. As we accept its teachings and allow its presence into our lives, it will do the fighting for us in overcoming the evil that lies within.

Lk 6: 47~49 Whosoever cometh to me, and **heareth** my sayings, and **doeth** them, I will shew you to whom he is like: He is like a man which built an house, and digged deep, and laid the foundation on a rock: and when the flood arose, the stream beat vehemently upon that house, and **could not shake it**: for it was founded upon a rock. But he that **heareth**, and **doeth not**, is like a man that **without a foundation** built an

house upon the earth; against which the stream did beat vehemently, and immediately it fell; and the ruin of that house was great.

So this message asks; to whom do I render my will; to Satan, self or Yah? When deciding on our walk, the word of truth gives us insight into how to overcome the present ruling power, to be filled with His Holy Spirit.

1 Jn 4: 1~6 Beloved, believe not every spirit, but **try the spirits** whether they are of God: because many false prophets are gone out into the world. Hereby know ye the Spirit of God: Every spirit that confesseth that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh is of God: And every spirit that confesseth not that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh is not of God: and this is that spirit of antichrist, whereof ye have heard that it should come; and even now already is it in the world. Ye are of God, little children, and have **overcome them**: because greater is he that is in you, than he that is in the world. They are of the world: therefore speak they of the world, and the world heareth them. We are of God: he that knoweth God heareth us; he that is not of God heareth not us. Hereby know we the **spirit of truth**, and the **spirit of error**.

1Pe 2: 1~12 Wherefore laying aside all malice, and all guile, and hypocrisies, and envies, and all evil speakings, As newborn babes, **desire the sincere milk of the word**, that ye may grow thereby: If so be ye have tasted that the Lord is gracious. To whom coming, as unto a **living stone**, disallowed indeed of men, but chosen of God, and precious, Ye also, as lively stones, are built up a **spiritual house**, an **holy priesthood**, to offer up spiritual sacrifices, acceptable to God by Jesus Christ. Wherefore also it is contained in the scripture, Behold, I lay in Sion a chief corner stone, elect, precious: and he that believeth on him shall not be confounded. Unto you therefore **which believe** he is precious: but unto them which **be disobedient**, the stone which the builders disallowed, the same is made the head of the corner, And a stone of stumbling, and a rock of offence, **even to them which stumble at the word, being disobedient**: whereunto also they were appointed. But ye are a chosen generation, **a royal priesthood**, an holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should shew forth the praises of him who hath **called you out of darkness** into his marvellous light: Which in time past were not a people, but are now the people of God: which had not obtained mercy, but now have obtained mercy. Dearly beloved, I beseech you as strangers and pilgrims, abstain from fleshly lusts, which war against the soul; Having your conversation honest among the Gentiles: that, whereas they speak against you as evildoers, they may **by your good works**, which they shall behold, glorify God in the day of visitation.

The house is cleaned from the inside out by pushing out the old, the evil, with truth and righteousness, the application of the law. Similarly, the cup is cleaned of the scum as it is forced to surface and then poured out because of the intake, the upwelling of the pure water of life. Our lives are no different; we must be filled with His Holy Spirit to overcome the evil that lies within.

*Those called have been given a once in a life time opportunity. We can squander our calling and remain a **minus**, a dirty vessel possessed by evil. Or we can allow truth to expose the filth which entraps us. We can climb out of the pit up to that void place lacking good or evil, the **“zero zone.”** Here, one may stay until one most certainly falls back again into the pit or takes an inverted position, securing oneself to a life of isolation and inactivity, being an unproductive vessel bearing no fruit. Yet, at this cross road, we have the greatest opportunity to be filled with pure living water and become a **plus**, honoring Our Lord with the produce of goodly fruit serving others as part of the River of Life, His Holy Spirit overflowing onto others through us.*

So what's in your cup?

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