

SEVEN OTHER DEMONS

Matthew 12:43-45

My message today, is the story - the parable of a man who got rid of a demon that had possessed the whole house. He got rid of him - out of his personality. He simply cleaned it up. He swept, he garnished it, and the demon withdrew. He went through waterless places. The Bible says that he went out into the desert place and wanders around in search of rest, but he cannot find it. Then he said to himself, I will go back to my house - which I left. I'll go back to this individual - and he finds it (unoccupied). It is swept, it is clean and ready for use.

Then he goes out and he gets seven other spirits - seven other demons. More wicked than himself. And they go in and they make their home there. And so the end of that man is worse than the beginning. This is the way it will be if the wicked leaders of this age continue.

There are many people who get bad things out of their lives, and don't put any thing good in. And the first thing you know, they are worse than they were when they got the bad things out. People get converted and become Christians. And a few years later, for some strange reason, they seem to be meaner and hardened in heart - even more so than they were before they were converted. Now that does not mean that Christianity does not work. But it does mean that something has happened in the way that people manage their lives.

In the recent upsurge and interest in demons, I would like to use this today because there are many people who take demons seriously. And they are frightened by demons. I think it is another sign of our times. There are some people who will believe almost anything now.

There have been several books written on demons by John Newport, Hal Lindsey, and Jack Taylor, Moody Adams and others. But there is one thing that I am sure of - there is a demonic in the world. There are destructive forces in this life - and the Bible speaks of demons. He speaks of Satan as a hinderer. And tells us that he is busy.

Now I am sure of something else. Now you can think of the Devil in any way that you want to think of him. Because he transforms himself into something that looks good. If you will pick up the book of James, you will read that no Christian ought to be afraid of the Devil. All you simply have to say is scat, and you get rid of him. Well, James says this - "resist the Devil and he will flee from you."

By way of introduction, we note that the evil spirit is banished from the man - not destroyed. That is to say, in this present age evil can be conquered. And evil can be driven away. But evil cannot be destroyed, as such. Evil always looks for an opportunity to make its counter attack. Evil always wants to regain some ground that is lost. And evil is in force.

Note secondly that religion in a negative way can never be enough. A religion that consists in "thou shalt not" is bound to end in failure. The trouble about such religion is, it may be able to cleanse a man by prohibiting him all the evil habits. And forbidding his evil actions. But it cannot cleanse.

Think in actual practice a drunkard may be reformed. He may decide that he will no longer spend his time in the public saloon. He must find something else to do. He must find something to fill up this now empty space and time - or he will simply slip back into his old evil ways.

Or you may contrast a man who seeks after pleasure. He may decide that he will stop. But he must find something else to do to fill up his life and his time. Or he

will simply through the emptiness of life drift back into the old habits.

Satan finds some mischief still for idle hands to do.

So we in the third place, think that we need some real permanent cure. And this is Christian action. It must go on to tell a man what he must do. The one fatal disease is that a man may get rid of his evil. Now the easiest way to conquer weeds in the garden, or in your yard, is to plant some useful things. In a garden, you could plant potatoes or corn. Now the easiest way to keep life from sin is to fill it up with healthy action. And new converts can be kept by the church when they are given some Christian work to do. Our aim is not negative action, but we must plunge fully into God's activities.

Therefore, Jesus says here, in the book of Matthew - this generation is going to be filled with seven demons. The people were asking for signs. And in Verse 39, he refuses to give them any other signs. In other words, Christ is already to answer and to meet the needs of man.

Verse 40, as Jonah was in the whale three days, he gave them that sign. And that is an illustration of Christ in the heart of the earth, for three days and three nights. He continued in that grave as Jonah continued in the fish, for three days and three nights. And as Jonah on the third day was discharged, from his prison - so our Lord on the third day came from the grave in the resurrection. So Christ had given this wonderful sign.

So this generation would be condemned by the men of Nineveh - who repented that the message of Jonah and Christ's resurrection was a sign that men everywhere should repent.

He said a second thing in Verse (42) that this generation would be condemned by the queen of the South - the queen of Sheba. The men of Nineveh would shame them for not repenting. The queen of Sheba would condemn them for not believing in Christ. She came from a far country to hear the wisdom of Solomon. Yet people will not be persuaded to come and hear the wisdom of Christ. The queen had no invitation to come to Solomon. Nor any promise of being welcomed. But we are invited of Christ. Solomon was but a wise man. And the queen of Sheba had many difficulties to break through. Being a woman, 12 of these long miles, and yet she would make sure that it was worthwhile to go on this errand. She came from the utter most parts of this earth. And yet Jesus says today, behold, I stand at the door and knock. It would seem that the wisdom of the queen was simply something that was going to condemn this generation.

And then he goes into this generation that is now under the power of Satan - not withstanding all the methods that have been used to get rid of him - that the Devil is here and he is called an unclean spirit. This generation today looks for a sign - but Jesus is saying, there will be no spectacular signs given. We have the sign from the Prophet Jonah, the sign from the queen of the south - who came from the furthest limits of the earth to hear Solomon. And now the foul spirit that you should rid yourself of has returned and brought in seven other demons. Jesus condemns the emptiness of the teachings of the Pharisees. And he is still thinking of people of that type - that an unclean spirit comes out of a man. The coming out may be voluntary. Or forced. And so he wanders seeking rest. And I want you to notice that Satan is an ever intruder. He claims a man for his own. When the Spirit returns - he finds a man's life empty - swept, and garnished. Now the emphasis is upon the word empty. It was ever so clean and seemingly beautiful - but it was empty. So it was swept and cleansed with a broom. In truth, what he is saying - that it was adorned, decorated - as a word used for cosmetics. But the word empty, means that there was unemployment. It means that there was leisure. It means that his life kept on being unemployed, at leisure, and empty. Now whoever swept and garnished his life failed to put anything in it - to take the place of the evil spirits which had departed. So if we give this phrase a free trans-

lation, it reads. Someone did a thorough job sweeping the house with a broom, arranging the furniture in order, and decorating and adorning it. But leaving it unoccupied, unused, and empty. What a text for a sermon - on the tragedy of a religion which has an outward form but no inner vitality. This is a sad ending of the parable - that seven other spirits more wicked than itself. And the eighth took up their abode in the man's life. So he was worse off than at the beginning when he was possessed by only one evil spirit.

Now let me use my imagination just a little bit to bring to you what I think these seven demons might have been, that came back with this other one.

## I. THE SLUMBERING DEMON

I think this is the first one that came back. Everything looks good - and so we will take things easy. The demon that says, let the Lord do it. The Lord will look after you. You just turn it over to God, and sit down and slumber.

But some of you turn over to God, (that which he has turned over to you.) And you are going to be in trouble. For God expects you to do something for yourself. Many people who call themselves Christians think that it is an excuse to be - or that they can use - and just slumber. And say, well, it is all up to God.

There are somethings we ought to turn over to God. But we do not throw ourselves into neutral. That is, like taking a car out of gear. You say, well, I have just - I think God is going to work it out. You remember Stephen - he prayed - but the people stoned him right on. Now he wasn't slumbering - he didn't have the slumbering demon. Now Jesus Christ prayed - and they crucified him. You must realize that living is a blending of what God helps you to do and uses you in an initiative. Now if we follow this principle of slumbering along, I think that is where the Devil takes hold. It keeps you from getting anywhere. It causes your life to be wasted. And in the Middle Ages when the vast majority of men were illiterate, the church presented miracle

plays, that told religious stories from the stage. Virtue was besieged by vice. And with Satan, and how was the Devil to be portrayed on the stage. So that the lowest citizen could recognize him - they chose a figure dressed in a red suit with horns on his head, and with hoofs and a tail. This represented the Devil. He was portrayed as the master of Hell. And the one who was in charge of tormenting souls in Hell. From whence arose the idea, that this came from the word of God.

But all of this has caused the slumbering demon to move through the world. A retired minister was given a television set by his people. And he was shocked at some of the things that he saw on the television. He attached a card to the edge of the screen. "Be careful, the Devil is in this box."

To be sure, the slumbering demon came back in the house.

## II. THE SCAPE GOAT DEMON

There - this is one of the biggest problems that people have today. When you listen to people locate their problems, As long as they can locate their problems outside of their own skin - it is not too hard. If you could get people to imagine that they are standing on the stage, draw a circle around them with a piece of chalk, and say to them - my problems are in that circle. Now what is happening out there - I can't blame that on my mother, I don't have to talk about what my mother and father did to me when I was a child. That is scape goat demon. It is not my wife that makes me drink. It is not my secretary that runs me crazy. It is not the neighbor who always confuses me. The word, scape goat comes from the Bible. It is the reaction that we have to these things.

And we want to put the blame on somebody else.

Many times the people blame the coldness of the church, or the failure of the church on somebody besides themselves.

It is awfully easy to say, these other people are the strangest people. And they blame other people. They are like the man by the pool who said, the reason, I haven't been healed is because nobody will put me in the water. But Jesus said to the man, stand up and walk. And he did, and he was healed. It is so easy to use this little demon in your life and put it - the scape goat demon to work.

### III. THE PERCOLATOR DEMON

Now this is the active demon. Perhaps you have watch coffee percolate on the stove - my what activity. And there are people like that - they are doing, doing, running, running. And they feel because they are doing something, they may be doing the will of God. For some people, this is very fine. There are some people who are under such pressure and stress because they can't make decisions.

Sometimes we are very busy people. Running ourselves to death. Thinking we are doing this because it is God's will.

We don't take time for spirituality. Now this little percolator demon is the one that will sap the spiritual life from you. We don't take time to work with the soul. We are not willing to sit down and meditate a few moments on the word of God. We have not taken time to listen to God. We have said little speedy prayers to him.

And the reason is, this little demon is saying to us - keep busy, keep on perking.  
And so this becomes the third demon.

IV. THE STUPID DEMON

Now this is the demon that says, I know what I believe. If I could just understand the Bible - I would believe it. For example, how many men and women whose marriages are breaking up have said, if I could just understand this - I would accept it. Or parents whose children are failing - or seem to be failing - say why. Just explain where did I go wrong. But that is not the problem. Job tried that route. Something happened to Job - he didn't know what to do about it. His friends told him that the real problem was - and the cause, but he wasn't a bit further along. Life, as it is, is tough. And at times, it is hard. And it is not changed by just finding some kind of explanation.

Life is changed when people learn to cope with it. When you think you have done something about a situation and say, this happened because this caused it. Like a scientist, you just overlook the problems and you try to explain everything. And you keep coming back and say - if I could just understand this. If I could just understand all about the Bible, I would become a Christian. If I could understand all about suffering, I would become a Christian. And so you are constantly frustrated by this demon - the stupid demon, who comes in and gets your side-tracked.

V. THE HIGH HAT DEMON

The demon that says, I'm proud. And I don't want to associate with these other



people. Don't get too close to anybody. Now this demon is the one that gets into many people in the church. They have gone to church all of their lives - and they have never once really opened their hearts to anybody. There is no body who knows them because they don't get that close to anybody. Whatever else the church is, it is not a group of people that live at a distance from each other. A church is not people whose names follow each other on the roll, - or people who sit side by side on the pew. The church is made up of people who draw near to each other - and become one in mind, soul, and spirit.

This is the way a home is. A home means closeness. Home cannot be a distant place where people pass each other like ships in the night. Where parents never get close to their children or children never get close to their parents. There must be touch - there must be contact. And the high hat demon causes people to refuse to get close together.

There are people who have problems in this. And usually it is not anything big in some marriages. When people go to the divorce court - the big problem is that people have been starving for each other. They don't feed each other - and you must learn to get closer together. I think there are people who finally come to this. Realize what it means - the closeness in some group sessions, people recognize this. What happens to a married couple when they say we have been married for 11 years, or 10 years, or 15 years. And we are farther apart than when we were married. We really don't know each other - we are at a distance. We cannot communicate. And the same thing happens in a man's life when the high hat demon takes possession - pride takes over.

in a closed hard shell. They live their lives in secret to themselves - all that they do involves around self. They find that if they don't tell anybody about anything - then they never get hurt. And so they never really talk out their inner most problems, and they never really enjoy life.

Two men sat down to breakfast and began to talk. Finally the conversation drifted off to their prayer life. They talked about the fears of death. Their feelings about the church. And after a while one man said, I have never talked to anybody as freely as you about this. Now this is strange that these men opened their hearts one to another. And then he said, you know, I have been a pretty lonely man. I haven't talked as frankly with anybody - I believe, in all my life, as I have talked with you in the last 20 minutes.

Now this is the thing in the New Testament - Eph. 4 - Paul talks about the pagans being dead to feeling. Their hearts were hard as stone - just like a hard shell. It is not the fact that they don't know right from wrong. They don't know how to feel. And when the church gets to where it sits down in little clusters, and begins to reveal themselves to each other and confront each other, and share with each other, and affirm with each other - then there will come real comfort and it will be the real church. But the hard shelled demon really occupies many homes.

## VII. THE GRUDGE HOLDING DEMON

Now I have dealt with many people about many things. But I see again and again the cause for many people being sick mentally, emotionally, is because the grudge holding demon has taken hold and there is a resentment to other people. They are looking at the same world that I look at. And the world has done the same thing to them that it has done to me. No worse - no better. But they live in the dumps - hurt, ignored, rejected, deprived. They have been smiled at and loved. They have had all of these various things.

But you know what they are focusing on - the grudges. The demon of grudges. Being focused on grudges - they cannot go forward in life. Because they are dragging so much.

You know if we could take every person possessed of this demon, and say imagine your life on a yacht going upstream, and behind this yacht is a little boat with a box containing all of this junk of the grudges and the resentment - and these demons locked up in it. And now if you could just imagine cutting this loose and seeing it float away and go out of sight - and then say, it will never bother you again as long as you live. Let that be in an imaginative way - that you have thought about it, harbored it inside of you. It does not belong inside of you - just let it go. You can't do anything about it.

Now to tell the truth, there are some people that hold grudges that last 40 years.

As you think about these demons coming back into the life, go back to the book of Hosea 4:6-7 where we have a miniature of the sin of Satan. The merchandise which he offers has been passed on through the priests and he says, they eat up the sin of my people and they set their heart on their iniquity. There is a picture of the priest who lives by the fact that people sin. And in accordance with the law brought beasts to the altar - that their blood should be shed as a symbol of their remission of sin. The priest took the good cuts of meat from their offering. The idea involved in the verse, were that the priests were not too much concerned that the people kept on sinning - since that kept the food on their table. And the sale of the best animals kept them in luxuries. When they saw a poor sinner coming toward the altar with a bullock - they no longer said, oh God, a poor brother has sinned. Rather did they say, oh brother, here is roast beef for dinner.

sermon today - the pastor was wrong. The real hero in that story was the elder brother. He stayed in the groove - he did what was right. He didn't go out and sow wild oats, and expect to come back and be forgiven. Don't you think for one moment that you are going to make any mistakes and sow wild oats, and come back home - and be forgiven. I want to tell you the pastor was wrong in his emphasis. Now you wouldn't be surprised today if you knew that that woman divorced that man. And she did so because he was intollerable. It looked like a good man on the surface. He was demanding, controlling, opinionated - hurtful, damaging, and of course - he had a system and only the demons fitted in his system.

This past week I talked to a preacher in Chesapeake. He was telling me about an experience that he was just trying to go through with in his church. A woman came and joined the church. And he thought it was very fine. And a man came with her to church and the children for several services. And he noticed that each time, at the door after the service - he would shake hands with this man and each time the man would have tears streaming down his cheeks. And he said to him, you should make a decision for Christ. And this man said to him, well (I have some personal things in my life that I have to straighten out first.) And then I am going to give my life to Christ.

He said time went along, and at last he heard by the way of the grapevine that things were not just right. And so he went by to visit this woman and talk with her. And he said, what about your husband - what about this man. And as he probed into it - she finally came and told him the story. And she said, he is not my husband. He lives with me and I live with him. I have my children by a previous marriage and he is living with me - and maybe someday if he ever gets a divorce, we'll get married. But this was the pattern they had slipped into. It looked good on the surface but man, oh man, it was really bad. Now the real problem is to fill up our lives with something that is so good, that there will be no place for these demons. What are you filling your life up with. What kind of relationships do you have. What kind of service do you render.

How do you help others. How do you relate to God spiritually.

Is this the way you handle life - well, I got rid of this habit, or that bad habit. And I must be a good person. Because I have just cleaned up my life pretty good. But like this parable here, you have left the house vacant - and seven more demons are going to come that are meaner than the one. And instead of having one, you'll have eight demons.

Now Jesus said it is not easy for us - even for those who have been Christians for years. We read the Bible, we are taught it. We forget that we too, let these demons slip in. They will fill our personality. We allow the devil to take over the strange, deceptive, and subtle way. And what we are saying today is this generation will not take the sign of (Jonah) - will not take the witness of the queen of (Sheba) who traveled from a distant country. We are going to be worse off. Even it shall be also unto this wicked generation.

This was the (history) of England - which is profane. Many years ago the (puritans) in their eagerness to reform the nation fell upon the great mistake of supposing that they could make all people become orthodox by acts of Parliament. At least their deeds were in accordance with some such theory. The book of common prayer was forbidden under penalty to be used - either in churches, or in private houses. Punishment was threatened against such as to find fault with the Calvinist mode of worship. Public amusements were attack. Theatres - representations were proscribed. One statute ordered - that all the (May Poles) in England should be cut down. The long Parliament gave orders that (Christmas day) should be observed as fast - a national day of humiliation. No person was to be admitted into the public service until the house of legislature was satisfied as to his real godliness. Thus the puritans set themselves to sweep England and to garnish it.

And it cannot be denied that they succeeded. The country did present an aspect

of great morality. All such acts of Parliament could not communicate one spark of religious life. And they could sweep away the visible dust, they could garnish the house, with these observances - but they could not send the devils away. And it was not long before unbelief, profanity, etc. - the like of which England had never seen before. The king and his court was an example of this. The statesmen of the land became mere selfish politicians. Literature dragged it down to the mar of pollution. And the stage became utterly corrupt.

John Bunyan was only one of many who was sent to prison for preaching the Gospel.

The danger of relapse - if one comes out of these evils and lapse back - the danger increases.

One may be in the marsh, and soft mud at the bottom of the mountain, but he may climb up a little higher - but unless he makes preparation to stay there, and slips - then his life is more wretched after the fall. Because he is crippled and secure in the mud.

This should say something to us today. You, who have from your religious earnestness slipped and lapsed, you are in danger today. The unemployment in the heart makes room for the entrance of evil. And the evil spirit breaks down the door. He does not have to even draw the latch on some lives - but he finds it empty. And open already - so all things are ready for his entertainment. So that if we reach not out our hands to welcome him when he calls - if we will shut the door against him, he will never hurt us. The Devil is looking for new lodging and he has found the desert dry. And so he comes back.

Now a housewife who sweeps a little bit of dust and filth out of the open and the middle of the room, but she lets a lot of it stay in the secret corners and lies there fowl. And she leaves the dirt behind, out of public view of people. And soon it becomes a counterfeit. It is just like this in a man's life. He may make the outside of the cup

clean, and the platter. But the heart is polluted and vile forever.

Slumbering Deceiver -

Scape goat "

Percolator "

Stupid

High Hat

Hard shell

Grudge Holding -

Indian converted - giving testimony -

2 Big Dogs inside - They fight - one is  
Big Black Dogs, mean, vicious, hate in eyes -

At fight Big White Dog -

one audience - Which one wins!

"The one I say sick ~~win~~ too - wins" -

Demons come in - They take over -

I think this passage in Hosea is a parallel in Ez. concerning the fall of Lucifer. By the multitude of thy merchandise they have filled the midst of thee with violence and thou has sinned. Therefore, I will cast these as profane out of the mountain of God. 28:16.

Now the demon system is something that we have to reckon with. And we need to be growing. Consider the lilies of the field how they grow. They toil not, neither do they spin, yet Solomon in all of his glory was not arrayed like one of these. So it just unfolds and there is a blueprint and a system for everything. There are people who have a system with excessive compulsive action - where they hang their clothes on a certain spot on a rack. So set their shoes a certain way, or put papers on a desk in a certain way. They are very systematic and they think that everybody else ought to live up to that system.

I read the story about a man whose wife was referred to a preacher. This man was known in the community as a fine man. He was a member of a church. He was on the school board. He had an important job. He flies all over the world. But he and his wife were thinking about a divorce. And yet they looked like a model couple. He sat down and he talked to her and he discovered that the children were nervous and being treated. And that they really dread seeing the man come home at night. For when he came in, he would rub his hand on the furniture and say, what is this dust doing here. He'd go to another room and he'd raise canes about something being out of place. He would look at the kids report cards and say, you made a "B" - why didn't you make an "A". And so on. This man went to church and he heard a sermon on the elder brother, and the prodigal son. The pastor did what any pastor would do - he made the waiting father the real hero. And the prodigal son a hero too. The elder brother was really kind of a villain. Because he was mad and would not come into the feast. But the man got home and he said, come, I want to tell you something. And he gave them another lecture. He said you heard that