Is Your House Haunted or Holy?

Matthew 12:43-45
43 When the unclean spirit is gone out of a man, he walketh through dry places, seeking rest, and findeth none.
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.
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 felt that since Halloween is tomorrow I might preach a message that is true year around but catchy at this time of the year to get your attention.

• At this time of the year one topic that is talked about is haunted houses.
• A **haunted house** is a house or other building often perceived as being inhabited by disembodied spirits of the deceased who may have been former residents or were familiar with the property.
  o There is actually a website that you can go to and find Haunted Houses in the U.S.
• Also Ghosts and Spirits are discussed at this time of the year.

• Some people may ask, “Do you really believe in that stuff?”
  o The answer is a resounding YES!!!
  o If you don’t, you don’t believe the Bible.

• The Bible tells us about a cosmic war between God and a fallen angel named Lucifer for the souls of mankind.
  o It tells of demons, evil spirits, and a very real spirit world that interacts and affects our physical world.
  o Now, don’t misunderstand me, while I believe something supernatural is going on in those haunted houses, I don’t interpret it the way non-Christians do.

• Lets look at the topic.
• I want you to see an underlying truth that evil spirits want something to inhabit.
  o Evil Spirits have to dwell in something.
When Jesus cast them out of a man they went into the pigs, and when they drowned they went somewhere else.

- They will go anywhere they can.
- They will go anywhere they are allowed to go.

There are many things the Bible does not directly address, but it gives us principles to help us understand.

- Jesus said I have many things to tell you, but you can’t bear it now.
- But when the Holy Spirit comes it will guide you into all truth.
- He is still guiding in full agreement with the Word, because it is His Word.
- The Holy Spirit and experience has shown us that spirits can and do occupy inanimate objects, if they can affect the physical world around us and if they can affect men’s souls.

We live in a world of spirits and superstitions.

- You must get out of bed on the same side that you get in or you will have bad luck.
- Do not lean a broom against a bed.
  - The evil spirits in the broom will cast a spell on the bed.
- Black cats have long been believed to be a supernatural omen since the witch hunts of the middle ages when cats were thought to be connected to evil.
  - Since then, it is considered bad luck if a black cat crosses your path.
- An ancient myth our ancestors believed was that the image in a mirror is our actual soul.
  - A broken mirror represented the soul being astray from your body.
  - To break the spell of misfortune, you must wait seven hours (one for each year of bad luck) before picking up the broken pieces, and bury them outside in the moonlight.
- In the days before the gallows, criminals were hung from the top rung of a ladder and their spirits were believed to linger underneath.
  - Common folklore has it to be bad luck to walk beneath an open ladder and pass through the triangle of evil ghosts and spirits.
At one time salt was a rare commodity and thought to have magical powers.
- It was unfortunate to spill salt and said to foretell family disarray and death.
- To ward off bad luck, throw a pinch over your shoulder and all will be well.

The fear of the number 13 is still common today, and avoided in many different ways.
- Some buildings still do not have an official 13th floor and many people avoid driving or going anywhere on Friday the 13th.

- Back to Haunted Houses.
- There are many houses that are setting empty and will not sell because someone believes they are haunted.

- I Corinthians 6:19 “...know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost...”
  - There is a Ghost wanting to live in your house.
  - There is a Ghost that wants to occupy your house.
  - You have the choice of the spirit of evil or the spirit of God.

- There are a lot of people who have things in their house that haunts them.
  - There are things that have found a place in the corner of their house and it haunts them everyday.
    - Many are haunted by your past…
    - Haunted by that prom night…
    - Haunted by an abortion…
    - Haunted by a drunken night and party somewhere…
    - Haunted by financial mistakes…
    - Haunted by a wrong move…
    - Haunted by something you said…

- In Edgar Allen Poe’s story, “The Tell-Tale Heart” the main character commits murder.
  - Unable to escape the haunting guilt of his deed, he begins to hear the heartbeat of the victim he has buried in his basement.
  - A cold sweat covers him as he hears the beat-beat-beat of a heart, that goes on relentlessly.
Ultimately, the heartbeat drives the man absolutely mad, not knowing that it was not coming from the body in the basement, but from the heart within his own chest.

- King David had a past that haunted him…
  - In Psalms 32:3-5
  - David’s experience was certainly similar.
- See how he describes it…
  - “For when I kept silent, my bones wasted away through my groaning all day long. For day and night your hand was heavy upon me; my strength was dried up as by the heat of summer.”

- When you sin, you want to hide it.
  - It is natural.
- But…
  - Living with sin as a pampered friend leaves us constantly worried about the exposé.

- What is going to happen if and when it comes out?
  - In the meantime, though, we hide it.
    - We push it back to the recesses of our mind.
    - We try not to think about it.
    - But little by little, it begins to eat away at us.
  - We keep up a good front.
    - But our body aches and our stomach churns.
    - We can’t sleep and depression begins to set in.
    - We are literally stuck in the past.
    - And every time something goes wrong, we know that it is God finally giving us what we deserve.

- But David does find the way out…
  - He says…*I acknowledged my sin to you, and I did not cover my iniquity; I will confess my transgressions to the LORD, and you forgave the iniquity of my sin.*

- He finally stopped trying to hide the sin.
  - He opened the door of the closet and revealed the “skeleton.”

- Too many people have skeletons in their closet.
  - We think we have them hidden…
• But they are just there waiting for someone to open the door and see the remains of our misfortunes.

• King David had skeletons in his closet.
  o He had it hid.
  o He thought he had done a pretty good job of hiding his skeletons.
  o But the prophet Nathan came along and revealed to him the things that were haunting in his house.

• Can you imagine the sleepless nights that King David had?
  o Do you think that after a while he began to sleep a little better?
  o But every time he walked into the room and saw Bathsheba, he was haunted by what he had done.
    ▪ The haunting was there everyday.
  o But after a while he had pushed the skeleton so far back in the closet of his mind that he thought he had it covered.
  o No one knew his house was haunted.
  o Sometimes only certain people see the ghosts of your past.

• But one day the Prophet Nathan shows up at David’s door and he is exposed.
  o The admonition to us is, “don’t wait.”
  o Don’t wait until you are flat out cornered…
  o Don’t wait until you are exposed like Former New York Congressman Anthony Weiner…
  o Or Disgraced congressmen Mark Foley…

• Expose the sin yourself before the huge embarrassment of someone else having to do it for you.
  o Clean out the closets of your house with confession to the one who has the power to do something about it.
  o Why live in a haunted house?

• Some are haunted by the mistakes you have made…
  o Those spirits are moving from room to room of your house and you have no rest because of their presence…

• To be released from the guilt, we must confess to what we have done wrong.
  o You see, we can’t expect God to cover that which we are
unwilling to uncover.

• So, we must follow the example of David.
  o David calls his sin, sin.
  o He doesn’t argue about the meaning of the word “is.”
  o He doesn’t say he made an error in his thinking.
  o He does not say that he made a mistake.
  o He does not excuse himself by calling it a lapse in judgment.
    ▪ No.
  o Instead, he said he had sinned against God.

• How do you get the haunting evil spirit to leave your house?
  o Take authority in Jesus name and command the demons to leave…
    ▪ Anoint the building, your house, your body with oil, dedicating it to Jesus.
    ▪ Sing praises…
    ▪ Pled the Blood…
    ▪ Destroy anything that gives demons a right to return…

• Start speaking the name of Jesus.
  o Demons are subject to the name of Jesus…
  o Devils tremble at the name of Jesus…

• In the last few days evil has been glorified as good.
  o Witches, warlocks, devils and death are being promoted as all powerful in this world.
• But the church isn’t supposed to tremble by the darkness, but shine in it…
  o We are to take authority over the darkness, and overcome it with good.
    ▪ Jesus always ruins Halloween.
    ▪ He never lets demon’s ruin His work…
    ▪ He always spoils a demon party.

• Demons realize that aren’t all powerful, when Jesus shows up they start crying. Matthew 8:29
  o The first thing they cry is: why are you here, why are you ruining things for us. You are the Son of God, you are the Holy One–please don’t hurt us.
• They cry—leave us alone—

• The Christian isn’t afraid of demons and the devil…
  o We have all authority given to us through Jesus name.
  o They cry: are you going to torment us before the time…
  o When they see Jesus they always wonder, is this it, is this when we are all going down?

• Every demon, and every satanic force knows the end of the story is: that Jesus will cast them all into the lake of fire.

• Demons also realize that demon possession, tormenting spirits, the spirit of fear, and spirits of addiction, all have to go when Jesus shows up. Matthew 8:31
  o There is no question that when Jesus takes possession of a life, the devil has got to go.
  o Demons have no say in the future…
  o The devil has no say in what goes on…
  o What Jesus says will happen, is going to happen.
  o The demons begged Him to be cast into the herd of swine. “Please Jesus, don’t torment us yet, please let us go.”

• When Jesus speaks the Word, the Word never returns void.
  o The devil and every demon is no match for the Word.
  o With power he commands the demons and they obey Him.

• Demons understand that when Jesus speaks with authority and power the unclean spirits have to go…
• Jesus is always glorified and the devil is always humiliated.
  o Jesus puts the devil to an open shame…
  o Every time the devil thinks he is winning, he ends up losing again…
  o The demons tremble…
  o When Jesus is absent the demons seem so strong, and powerful, but when he shows up, they cower, and tremble and beg him permission to do things.
  o The disciples returning from ministry said, even the demons are subject to us through your name.
  o Halloween is glorified in America…
  o Demons, witches and warlocks are promoted as powerful…
  o But Jesus will ruin Halloween as the church rises up in power
and takes authority over every spirit that confesses not Jesus Christ.

- Jesus defeating the Devil becomes a great witness in the world…
- The Bible says in Luke 4:37 that “...the fame of him went out into every place...”
- In Matthew 8:34 it says, “...behold, the whole city came out to meet Jesus...”
  - As Christians we are called to shine as lights for Jesus Christ.
  - The best witness in this world is taking authority over every evil thing in our life.

- People must know that we have the power in the name of Jesus.
- Every knee shall bow and every tongue shall confess that Jesus Christ is Lord.

- It’s time to drive out the haunting past that is trying to occupy our house and make our house a holy house.
- We need to make our house a place where Jesus will dwell.