

Providential Hands

Sermon By
GEORGE T. MOORE,
Pastor, Resurrection Lutheran
Church

TEXT: Luke 11:19, 20. "And if I cast out demons by Beelzebub, by whom do your sons cast them out? Therefore they shall be your judges. But if it is by the finger of God that I cast out demons, then the kingdom of God has come upon you."

This was the way in which God spoke 2,000 years ago. Both question and answer were prompted by a negative response to a miracle of healing. According to Luke, a man without speech now speaks. Jesus has just performed



John Wesley
Weslisk Bush

about this question: "Explosion of steam boiler; bursting of steam or hot water appliances and heating systems; fireplace smoke damage; falling trees, weight of ice or snow damage, building collapse - are these and other losses covered by the 'broad form' Homeowner Policy, but not by the standard Homeowner Policy?"

Consult the C. E. Warlick Insurance Agency, Phone 738-3811.

God at face value, isn't it? It is hard when we are not fully at ease with this perplexing record of "casting out demons. Note the difference in answers between the first century critics and those of the 20th century. You see, those ancient critics didn't question the fact of the exorcism at all! They questioned only the FORCE behind it, the guiding hand which effected the cure. They accepted the fact of the work of God. It was the work of Satan. None of them saw any special significance, whatsoever, in a demon cast out. They were saying, "So you cast out a demon. So what? Show us some real act of God, so that we can believe. Give us some sign from heaven!"

And the present day critic? "Well, I can explain that," he says. "The speechless man had a mental block. He just imagined that he couldn't speak. There are thousands of case histories, like his, and most of them cured by a good specialist. Jesus was just a good psychiatrist. Demons? That's nonsense."

As long as we stick to human reasoning and to our 20th century "gods" of science, that is the best answer we can give. We think in terms of ancient superstition, saying that "demon" bit was simply the ancient's way of describing what he couldn't understand. Primitive man didn't know any better.

Perhaps all this wouldn't matter so much if our problems were limited to the loss of speech. However, that's the approach to all our problems. It's the idea that evil doesn't exist, or that a rational, scientific approach, given enough time and money, can lick any human problem.

We have inherited a lot of that sort of optimism from the last century. It's the foolish idea that "every day in every way we are getting better and better," or that "God's in his heaven" and all's right with the world. And, even when those went sour, we were still optimistic.

Strangely enough, it took the world of literature to reveal the facts of life, that all was not right with the world. As Gertrude

Stein put it, "You are all a lost generation." Elliott did it in "The Waste Land," Faulkner in his "Sound and Fury," O'Neill did the same thing on the stage in his "Long Day's Journey Into Night." Yet, the lesson didn't get through. It took, among other things, two world wars, and 6 million Jews slaughtered, to make us realize that the world was full of "demons." It took the fact of the most inhuman generation the world has ever known to show that man, in and of himself, is wandering in a vast wasteland, hopeless and helpless, if left to his own devices.

Even now the non-believer says we can work it out, given enough time. But time is fast running out, and God is still the only answer to a world standing on the brink of self-destruction. The providential hands of God are just that, in that He comes, even in strange ways, and shows us that we cannot get along without Him.

We do have our demons, and the lack of scientific proof cannot disprove the reality of them. There are the demons of complacency, for example, which make us hide our heads in the sand, ignoring the evil in the world about us. They would have us think that what is called evil is not that at all. In this mood God is not very important. He is unseen and, therefore, unknown. Maybe He doesn't even exist—so we are tempted to think.

There are the demons of misplaced values. This shows in what we give ourselves to in daily living, the things we deem most important. Just last week a newspaper article stated that U. S. money helped raise the total to 36 million dollars, in order to remove and relocate the ancient pagan gods of stone out of the way of the flood waters of the new dam in Egypt—and the world is still plagued by hunger and starvation! Are we concerned with the important things of life, the God-related things, or are we concerned with the worthless?

Then there are the demons of SIN itself, the bondage of men in sin, standing apart from God. This is the separation which reflects itself in every act against God. As Jesus said, "He who is

not with me, is against me." This is not a matter of a lot of little "sins". It is rebellion against God, enslaved by the demonic forces of evil.

In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth, and unless this God is the foundation of your life, all is wrong. The end is destruction. What is the meaning of life for you? Money? Promotion? Security? Social recognition?

There is the story of the dog in the crate, being shipped by rail. The dog chewed up the ticket on the crate so the shipping clerk sent the dog to the Washington Post Office with this note: Here is nobody from nowhere going nowhere. That's the picture of life without God.

But God would have it otherwise. He gives meaning to life. He tells you that you were created in the image of God, that you are "somebody." He says there is a glorious future for you, with Him. He gave that meaning into our world one with us. He came to share the worst in order to give us the best. The "Providential Hands" of God stretched out, at the Cross, that we might live, free of the destructive "demons" of our world.

What about your life, and the "demons" confronting you? If they have been cast out by the finger of God, then the kingdom has come upon you.

That's God's message of truth. Quit trying to do what you cannot do, for yourself. Let the providential hands of God enfold you. He can, and will, set you free.

Mayberry Assigned To Ordnance Co.

U. S. Army, Europe, (AHTNCO) — Army Pvt. Vernon S. Mayberry, son of Mr. and Mrs. Jess W. Mayberry, Kings Mountain, N. C., was assigned to the 124th Ordnance Company in Germany, Feb. 10.

Mayberry, an instrument repairman in the company near Stuttgart, entered the Army in June 1963 and completed basic combat training at Fort Gordon, Ga.

DON'T DOZE WHILE YOU'RE SMOKING!



IF YOU FEEL YOURSELF GETTING SLEEPY, PUT YOUR CIGARETTE OUT—NOT JUST DOWN, AND NEVER SMOKE IN BED!

170

Pharmacists To Meeting

Chapel Hill — Pharmacists from all sections of North Carolina will be in Chapel Hill on March 11-12 for a two-day speech training program.

Sponsored by the North Carolina Pharmaceutical Association in cooperation with the Speech Training Service of Smith Kline & French Laboratories of Philadelphia, the pharmacists will receive professional instruction on how to give speeches, how to prepare and illustrate them, and how to organize and operate a speakers bureau. The training will consist of formal instruction, drill in which registrants deliver practice speeches and conduct simulated question and answer periods for evaluation of technique, and a final valedictory address.

Graduate's of SKF's speech training service have given more than 7,000 speeches in recent years. The speech training program at Chapel Hill will be headed by six members of SKF's speech training service from Philadelphia. Following completion of the program, a Pharmaceutical Speakers Bureau will be established under direction of W. J. Smith, Executive Secretary of the NCPA.

Charles D. Elanton, Jr., Kings Mountain, A. H. Cornwell of Lenoir, Truman Hudson of Gastonia, and W. H. Houser of Cherryville are among the pharmacists registered for the speech training program.

The Accordian was invented in Germany in 1822. But similar instruments were known to the Chinese for many centuries before that year, according to the Book of Knowledge.

HARRIS Funeral Home

KINGS MOUNTAIN, NORTH CAROLINA

Dear friends,
In the absence of pre-arrangement, the next of kin alone has the right to choose the funeral director and to decide the funeral arrangements.
No one should attempt to influence or usurp this right of choice.
Advice should be given only when asked, as the selection of a funeral director is a very personal matter.
Respectfully,
J. Allen Harris
MEMBER BY INVITATION NATIONAL SELECTED MORTICIANS



It's nicer to do business with people you know

There's got to be a first time for everything, and it's always easier when there's a friend around. Come see us, and you'll find you don't feel like a stranger at all.
You might want to sit down and talk about one of our checking account plans. You'll find how easy and convenient it is to pay bills with your own checks. Or you might be ready to open a savings account and start being proud watching it grow. Whatever you talk about, you'll find it's easier than you thought to do business with us.



... a most progressive bank!

NOW... AT YOUR FORD DEALER'S!

WINNER'S STREAK HARDTOP SALE!



Total performance has carried Ford to 10 wins in a row in NASCAR races 500 miles or longer... and now's your chance to buy a total performance Ford, Fairlane or Falcon Hardtop at special savings! Fastbacks included! But better act fast—this sale is for a limited time only!

TRY TOTAL PERFORMANCE FOR A CHANGE... AT YOUR FORD DEALER'S

Southwell Motor Co.

910 Shelby Rd.

Phone 739-4743