Luke 11:21-28 --Bad news can be **really bad sometimes** and we need to be prepared for some today, because Jesus is about to give it to us.

In our passage, a man was demon possessed and it made him mute; demon possession can be almost anything in the way it manifests.
--In our text we will see it manifest in what I think is its most common and least understood form: as affluent, moral, conservative, and good.
--That might sound a little shocking, but Jesus has no real problem with people like this man or any other of those labeled sinners by the people of that day (prostitutes, tax collectors, afflicted and common people).
--If we measured demonic activity not on manifestations but on how they treat Jesus and His message we would find the most common and by far the most horrific type of demonic activity.

Jesus delivers this man from a demon, but the people accused Him of using Satanic power to do it.
--They refer to Him using an extremely blasphemous term "Lord of the flies"="king of the dung hill", but Jesus doesn't call fire down on them instead He tries to reason with them from simple logic: "Can't you see that takes one more powerful than Satan to remove Satan"
--The redneck in me would have probably just turned them to ash right there, but Jesus was no redneck. Even though He was born in a barn!
--He's so kind to them; tries to reason with them.

VV. 21-22 –Remember what plunders the strong man? The preaching, the purpose, the person and the power of the Son of God!
--Notice the terms the demon uses: he calls it his "house" whether he's living there or not; cleaning it doesn't change its ownership.
--**V. 23** – It's impossible to be ambivalent about Jesus.
--Bad news if you think you can just be in the middle towards Him—you might as well blaspheme Him.
--If you are not willing to say He's King, Lord and Savior of your life, you might as well be calling Him king of the dung hill.
--All you have to do is nothing about Him and you are in the same category as Satan himself.
--You're either a ***child of God*** or you are a *child of Satan*, there isn't a third parent.

There is a deceptive middle ground out there that is treacherous trap for so many.
--The treacherous, deceptive middle is conservative, moral, and in America, Republican in many cases.
--The worst part about this terrible middle place is that it is full of people who expect to go to heaven but won't be going **Luke 13:24-27**
--I believe it is probably the worst form demonic activity and deception that there is.
Let me explain:
Obvious Child of God who places their faith in Jesus and follows Jesus and is transformed into the light of this world because of what Jesus has done in their lives.

Obvious children of Satan who hate God, hate His laws, turn their backs on the Savior and flaunt their immorality and right to live wickedly.
Unrecognized Children of Satan who don't hate God, or His laws, They like Jesus (or their version of Jesus) but never fully believe on Him; they are moral, conservative, righteous but only self-righteous.
--Hell is just as certain for them as the God-haters, but their deceived condition lies to them to the bitter end. **Luke 13:24-27**

The Bible has so much to say about this group; in fact, it withholds its harshest condemnations and darkest judgments for them.
--The people who will someday say to Jesus, "did we not preach and cast out demons in your name?" to whom Jesus will say "I never knew you"; Luke-warm Laodiceans who make Jesus want to vomit.
--**Matthew 11:23** – Moral, good citizens, uphold the law, walked with Jesus at some point but never accept Him.

The end of morals without Jesus is always precipitous—always a shocker because they saw themselves and we had them for decent people not Sons of the Devil. **II Pet. 2:21**
--As we saw in our Wednesday Bible study, you may think that almost is far better than being nothing at all, but it's not!
--Almost is still lost; almost is still Hell, but it just doesn't feel that way.
--Almost is demonic maybe more demonic than just an out and out lost person, but it doesn't feel that way.
--You don't need many demons to maintain a debauched immoral culture, but you need a lot of demons, smart ones, to maintain a moral, religious but devoid of Jesus culture.

We are in favor of morality, aren't we? Judeo-Christian values, teaching our kids morality, voting for moral living and moral conduct.
--Morality is better than immorality.
--Having said that, hear me on this, Morality by itself has the potential to put you in a more dangerous position, potentially, than immorality.
--You clean your life up, adopt a new standard of living and acting; put away your addictions and debauchery, turn over a new leaf, but you're still not for Jesus (He still isn't your Savior and only hope of everlasting life)
--Living your life by Judeo-Christian values but doing it without Salvation—**you are in very serious danger**!
--You've gotten spiritual but without Christ; you've gotten moral but without trusting the Savior—**you're in grave danger**.
--Reformation without regeneration; without being transformed into a child of God by the salvation of God could be the worst thing you ever did.

--Jesus makes this clear in a very graphic illustration: **VV. 24-28**—
--Just so you don't miss who Jesus is aiming this illustration at-- it tells us this in **Matthew** that Jesus was talking about the religious and Bible teachers of the day
--You may think, "Well, of course, these are the same people who sold

Him for bag of silver and had Him murdered on a cross for trumped up charges"

--What you may not understand is these people were the moral and "good" people of the day—they were the ones who **maintained the Judeo-Christian ethic!**

--They lived by a very complex ethical code, they demanded that life be controlled by moral standards—you would have voted for these people.

--They had a very clean house, but it was empty.

--It was their morality, their perceived righteousness, their upholding of the traditional values that made them feel they had no need for Jesus.

--Didn't need a Savior because they thought of themselves as good people.

--They were like whitewashed tombs: painted up and well organized on the outside but inside nothing but death.

--They successfully cleaned up their lives, but they made no place for the Savior—they could do nothing to fill the void, but something was going to fill it—either you're for Jesus or you are for Satan.

--You can be very religious, very moral, even have good feelings about Jesus and still be against Him.

--Moral reform without trusting Christ will kick open a double door for the return of demons.

--The demon says, "I will return to my house" **V. 24** It's either God's House or it's Satan's house, but it's never your house!

--Even though it's been cleaned up, it's still Satan's house because it hasn't been sold to the Savior.

2. Jesus almost never had a problem with the immoral people

--He hardly ever had a problem with the prostitutes or the tax collectors, criminals, or the riffraff

--It was the religious people, the moral people who hated and blasphemed Him and killed Him.

--You don't want a house that's moral but empty, cleaned-up but no repentance toward God and faith in Jesus.