

Table Host Discussion Guide

Week 2: Kingdom Collision

This week's teaching focuses on the reality of demonic activity in the Gospels and the even greater reality of Jesus' authority over every dark power. Jesus' exorcisms were **kingdom announcements**: proof that God's reign was breaking into enemy-occupied territory. We saw that Satan's kingdom cannot stand against itself, that Jesus is the **stronger One** who binds the strong man and plunders his house, and that Christ's victory—especially through the cross and resurrection—secured Satan's defeat and the believer's security. Jesus also warned against hardened unbelief that calls God's work evil, and against an “empty house” Christianity that cleans up outwardly without being filled with the Holy Spirit. The invitation was clear: there is **no neutral ground** with Jesus. Submit to the King, be filled, and live alert, not afraid.

Discussion Questions

1. According to the Gospels, what was Jesus proving when He cast out demons?
 - **Answer:** Jesus taught that if He drives out demons by God's Spirit/power, then **the kingdom of God has come upon you**. His authority over demons is evidence that God's reign is breaking in (Matthew 12:28; Luke 11:20). His commands also show demons are subject to Him, not equal to Him (Mark 3:11–12).
 - **Application:** Where do you most need to stop treating Jesus as “helpful” and start treating Him as **King** with real authority over your choices, habits, and fears?
2. What does Jesus mean by the “strong man” illustration?
 - **Answer:** Jesus describes Satan as a “strong man,” but He presents Himself as the **stronger One** who can enter, bind him, and plunder his house, meaning Jesus is actively freeing people from Satan's grip (Matthew 12:29). The New Testament explains that Christ's victory through the cross disarmed the powers (Colossians 2:15), and that through His death He broke the devil's power of death and frees those enslaved by fear (Hebrews 2:14–15).
 - **Application:** What is one area where you've been living as if Satan still has final authority (fear, shame, addiction patterns, anxiety) and what would it look like to live as if Jesus is the stronger One?
3. Why does Jesus say there is no neutrality with Him?
 - **Answer:** Jesus teaches that whoever is not with Him is against Him, and whoever does not gather with Him scatters (Matthew 12:30; Luke 11:23). People often push Jesus away because His authority has implications: if He is Lord, we must yield (Luke 11:14–16; Luke 8:37).
 - **Application:** If someone watched your life this week, where would they say your allegiance is “gathering with Jesus,” and where would they say it's still scattered?

4. What is blasphemy against the Holy Spirit, and why is it so serious?
 - **Answer:** In context, it is the willful, hardened rejection of the Spirit's work in Jesus—seeing what is holy and undeniable and attributing it to Satan (Matthew 12:31–32; Mark 3:28–30). Jesus then ties our words to our heart condition: the mouth speaks what the heart is full of, and we will give account (Matthew 12:34–37).
 - **Application:** When you see God at work (convicting, correcting, blessing, moving), what is your reflex: gratitude and surrender, or resistance and explanation? What's one way to soften your heart this week?

5. What warning is Jesus giving in the “empty house” teaching?
 - **Answer:** Jesus warns that a person can experience real change, even relief, and still remain spiritually empty, so the final condition becomes worse (Luke 11:24–26). The point is that Scripture doesn't call us to mere self-improvement but to being **filled**—new allegiance, new Lord—because there is no neutral spiritual vacancy (Luke 11:23; compare the call to faith and surrender throughout Luke 8:25, 48, 50).
 - **Application:** Where are you most tempted to substitute “being put together” for being truly surrendered to Jesus? What practice this week would help you be filled with Christ (prayer, confession, Scripture, accountability, worship)?

Prayer Prompts

1. **Allegiance and surrender:** Jesus, we submit to You as King. Show us where we've tried to stay neutral, and give us the grace to choose You fully. Make our lives gather with You, not scatter. (Matthew 12:30; Luke 11:23)
2. **Freedom from fear:** Father, where we've lived in fear (fear of darkness, fear of death, fear of what we can't control), remind us that Jesus is stronger and victorious. Help us live alert, not afraid. (Hebrews 2:14–15; Colossians 2:15)
3. **Filled, not empty:** “Holy Spirit, don't let us settle for a swept-clean life without Your presence. Fill us with Christ—renew our minds, heal our hearts, and make our home a place You occupy and rule.” (Luke 11:24–26)