

# **“Filling the Heart”**

## **Matt. 12:43-45**

### Introduction

- I. Jesus took the time to address the spiritual condition of some first century Jews (Matt. 12:38-45).
- II. Jesus used an example of a man vexed by an unclean spirit to describe the need to fill the heart of man (Matt. 12:43-45).
- III. Man must indeed have the evil removed, but man must also replace it with good.
  - A. There is great danger when our hearts are empty.
  - B. How do we fill the heart with good?

### Discussion

- I. There is great danger when our hearts are empty.
  - A. The heart can harbor both good and bad (Matt. 12:35; 15:19).
  - B. Like a home, the heart can be cleansed (Heb. 10:22; 9:14; Acts 15:8-9).
  - C. “Nature abhors a vacuum”-empty/unfilled spaces are unnatural.
    1. If the heart is not filled with goodness, then the evil will likely return.
    2. The condition will be worse than before (2 Pet. 2:20-22).
    3. Consider the Corinthians (1 Cor. 6:11; 2 Cor. 12:20-21).
  - D. Our hearts can become hardened (Heb. 3:12-13; cf. 10:26-29).
- II. How do we fill the heart with good?
  - A. Set apart in your mind that God is the ruler of my life (1 Pet. 3:15; cf. Rom. 12:1-2).
  - B. Be cautious what your mind consumes (Col. 3:1-2, 16; Psm. 101:3-4; Phil. 4:8).
  - C. Engage in good works (Eph. 2:20; 1 Pet. 2:1-2; Psm. 1:1-6; Matt. 5:16).
  - D. Choose our friends carefully (1 Cor. 15:33; Prov. 13:20).

### Conclusion

- I. We need to guard our hearts carefully.
- II. Once cleansed, we need to keep it clean.