**Who Has The Power?**

**Luke 11:20-23**

**Introduction:**

 **I. It was once said that, “Nothing will divide the church so much as the love of power.”**

A.Nearly all men can stand adversity, but if you want to test a man’s character, give him power.

 **II. This afternoon I want us to consider, “Who Has the Power?”**

A. God, Satan, or Man?

**Discussion:**

 **I. God**

A. God is “all powerful”

 1. Created all things, spoke it into existence, tablets were written by the “finger of God,” (Ex. 31:18; Deut. 9:10).

 2. Jesus cast out demons with the “finger of God” (Luke 11:20)

 B. God is the one that knows how to handle power, it is all for good (Job 37:23) *“As for the Almighty He is excellent in power…”*

 C. God is in CONTROL of ALL THINGS! Things happen “only” because He allows such to happen.

 1. **For our benefit,** (Phi. 4:13) *“I can do all things through Christ…strengthens me”*

 2. **For His plan,** (Deut. 7:9) He desires His creation to love Him -come to repentance

 D. The great storms – God is in control

 E. Over Satan – God is in control

 **II. Satan**

A. What power does Satan have?

 1. Tempted Jesus saying, (Mat. 4:9) that he would give Jesus *“all the kingdoms of the world, and the glory in them.”* It is implied that he had such control to give it. This is vehemently exerted by him in (Luke 4:6)

 2. Since God himself is Almighty, and the Bible does not teach dualism (that the world is under the control of two equal forces of good and evil, God and Satan), Satan could have no power except what has been committed to him by God.

 B. Satan has the power of sin and death

 1. The great deceiver and the father of lies.

 C. God raised Jesus from death and now we have victory- “overcame the sting of death!”

 1. Satan lost the fight (Rev. 12:7-9)

 2. Final loss yet to come!

 **III. Man**

A. What power does man have?

 1. The power of choice – can be “in control” of our being, but because of these forces we find ourselves being tossed about by a heavy wind - God & Self.

 a. Give a man power……test his character

 2. Satan can only have the power we relinquish to him.

 B. With God we can overcome all issues of life

 1. Satan as a roaring lion – God “shut the lions mouth” (Dan. 6:22)

 2. God is not slack concerning His promises (2Pet. 3:9)

 C. We have the power of choice – to choose who we will follow!

**Conclusion:**

 **I. When visiting the Niagara Falls, a man inquired of a bystander, “What’s the house down there?” “The powerhouse, from it wires go to all the houses giving them needed electricity.” Where does all that power come from?” Well Lake Erie is 169 feet below Lake Ontario. The fall of the water provides the power. If they were the same level, there would be no power.”**

 **II. God is all powerful, stick close to Him and you will find great power!**