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Explain Luke 11:24-26. I don't think this means a man who Jesus has saved, but who is it? Why would devil leave anyone else? What is the point of this story?

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Always remember that context has the answer to many of our interpretation questions.

- The context of this passage goes back to Luke 11:14. Jesus has casted out a demon from a man. The response of some was that he had casted out the demon by the power of Beelzebul, the prince of demons.

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Always remember that context has the answer to many of our interpretation questions.

- Jesus uses this occasion to teach the following:
 - First, He reveals the fallacy of their argument as the absurd notion that Satan would not undercut his own kingdom
 - Jesus challenged them to answer by whom “their sons” casted out demons.
 - That the Jews practiced exorcisms is detailed in Acts 19:11-20
 - Josephus has an account of an exorcism during his time.

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Always remember that context has the answer to many of our interpretation questions.

- Jesus uses this occasion to teach the following:
 - Jesus revealed that it was the Kingdom of God at work among them that had power over the devil and thus demons were casted out.
 - Jesus contrasts His casting out of a demon as different from the practices of the Jews in that when they cased out a demon, they had nothing to offer in return.

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A number of weeks ago you mentioned that God has all the emotions we do; He made them. That resonated with me, but then my wife asked “what about fear”. The Bible tells us on many occasions not to fear, so it would seem incongruent if the Lord experienced fear. What are your thoughts?

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What the Bible teaches about fear.

- **Fear can be, and often is, a reaction to something or someone.**
 - ¹⁰ And he said, “I heard the sound of you in the garden, and I was afraid, because I was naked, and I hid myself.”
Genesis 3:10 (ESV)
 - ⁷ Then Jacob was greatly afraid and distressed. He divided the people who were with him, and the flocks and herds and camels, into two camps, ⁸ thinking, “If Esau comes to the one camp and attacks it, then the camp that is left will escape.” Genesis 32:7-8 (ESV)
 - ³⁸ The police reported these words to the magistrates, and they were afraid when they heard that they were Roman citizens.
Acts 16:38 (ESV)

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Fear, like love, is more multidimensional than simply emotion.

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God commands us not to fear people and circumstances.

- ¹³ And Moses said to the people, “Fear not, stand firm, and see the salvation of the LORD, which he will work for you today. For the Egyptians whom you see today, you shall never see again.
Exodus 14:13 (ESV)
- ⁶ And the LORD said to Joshua, “Do not be afraid of them, for tomorrow at this time I will give over all of them, slain, to Israel. You shall hamstring their horses and burn their chariots with fire.”
Joshua 11:6 (ESV)
- ²⁸ And do not fear those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul. Rather fear him who can destroy both soul and body in hell.
Matthew 10:28 (ESV)

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God commands us to fear Him.

- ²⁴ And the LORD commanded us to do all these statutes, to fear the LORD our God, for our good always, that he might preserve us alive, as we are this day.
Deuteronomy 6:24 (ESV)
- ¹³ The end of the matter; all has been heard. Fear God and keep his commandments, for this is the whole duty of man.
Ecclesiastes 12:13 (ESV)
- ¹⁷ Honor everyone. Love the brotherhood. Fear God. Honor the emperor. 1 Peter 2:17 (ESV)

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Final observation: God created us with the capacity to fear so we could fear Him.