

# Suspicious Minds

## Luke 11:14-23

Grace Fellowship Church / Pastor Peter LaRuffa / February 13, 2022

### I. You need to know that everyone has either been affected by Jesus or offended by Jesus!

**Luke 11:14-15** “Now He was casting out a demon that was mute. When the demon had gone out, the mute man spoke, and the people marveled. <sup>15</sup> But some of them said, ‘He casts out demons by Beelzebul, the prince of demons...’”

### II. You need to beware of sinful suspicion at work in your own life and the lives of those around you!

**Sinful suspicion** is the act of suspecting something on little or no evidence, and living as if it's true.

### 6 Things You Need To Know About Sinful Suspicion

#### A. Sinful suspicion **rarely travels alone**. It usually shows up with other sins in tow.<sup>1</sup>

- Anxiety (Matthew 6:34)
- Malicious Thoughts (1 Timothy 6:3-5)
- Distrusting God (Romans 8:31)
- Sinful Jealousy (Proverbs 6:34-35; 14:30)
- Rash Judgments (John 7:24)
- Unrighteous Judgment of Motives (1 Corinthians 4:5)
- Failing to Believe the Best of Another (1 Corinthians 13:7)
- Fear of Man (Proverbs 29:25)
- False Accusations (Exodus 20:16)
- Selfishness (1 Corinthians 13:5)
- Pride (Proverbs 16:18)
- False Reasoning & Exaggerating (Philippians 4:8)

#### B. Sinfully suspicious people usually **talk about the accused instead of to them**.

**Luke 11:15** “But some of them said, ‘He casts out demons by Beelzebul, the prince of demons...’”

#### C. Sinfully suspicious people will say there's a way to appease them, but **it's usually a moving target**.

**Luke 11:16** “While others, to test him, kept seeking from him a sign from heaven.”

---

<sup>1</sup> List compiled from [Suspicion: How To Overcome Paranoid Thinking](#) by Lou Priolo

D. Sinfully suspicious people will **usually lack common sense to some degree.**

**Luke 11:17-18** “But He, knowing their thoughts, said to them, ‘Every kingdom divided against itself is laid waste, and a divided household falls. <sup>18</sup> **And if Satan also is divided against himself, how will his kingdom stand?** For you say that I cast out demons by Beelzebul.’”

E. Sinfully suspicious people eventually **lack integrity in the actions they take** sooner or later.

**Luke 11:19** “And if I cast out demons by Beelzebul, by whom do your sons cast them out? Therefore they will be your judges.”

F. Sinfully suspicious people **lack the spiritual maturity to discern things rightly.**

**Luke 11:20-22** “But if it is by the finger of God that I cast out demons, then the kingdom of God has come upon you. <sup>21</sup> When a strong man, fully armed, guards his own palace, his goods are safe; <sup>22</sup> but when one stronger than he attacks him and overcomes him, he takes away his armor in which he trusted and divides his spoil.”

### III. **You life will show whether you’ve been affected by Jesus or offended by Jesus!**

**Luke 11:23** “Whoever is not with Me is against Me, and whoever does not gather with Me scatters.”

#### **Questions for Personal Reflection and/or Community Group Discussion:**

1. Pastor Peter said “Everyone in life has either been affected by Jesus or offended by Jesus. Nobody is neutral.” Do you agree or disagree with that statement?
2. Pastor Peter said “Even those who are seemingly ‘neutral’ when it comes to the Gospel are really offended by Jesus.” Why might this fact bring a sense of urgency to our evangelistic endeavors for those we know & love?
3. Can you recall a time when you were “sinfully suspicious” of someone else?
4. Pastor Peter said “Sinful suspicion usually shows up with other sins in tow.” Which of those sins have you wrestled with? Which of them have accompanied a time of “sinful suspicion” in your life?
5. What in your life currently shows that you’ve either been affected by Jesus or offended by Him?
6. Pastor Peter recommended a resource by Lou Priolo. Consider purchasing it for yourself at one of our Resource Centers or by scanning this code:

