Dr. Luke talks about Jesus and the Spirit world or Jesus’ Power Over Spirits

 Monal lived in a village where many spirits were revered. The people in the village feared the spirits. The spirits, they believed, had power over the lives of the villagers and they must be appeased. If they are not appeased, the spirits could do terrible things to people. So, out of fear, the people continued to revere the spirits.

 One day, a woman came to Monal’s village. This woman brought a message about a god-man named Jesus and she called for people to turn away from the gods and spirits they worshiped and turn to Jesus. But the people were afraid. “What would happen,” they murmured amongst themselves, “If we turned to this Jesus? The spirits would be very angry and we would suffer for our disloyalty to them.” And many of them disregarded the woman’s message because they feared the spirits.

 But as Monal listened to the words of this woman, her heart was moved. She wanted to know more about this Jesus. But she, like everyone else in her village, was afraid of the spirits.

One day, though, her curiosity overcame her fear and she went to visit the woman. The woman welcomed her gladly and prepared some chai for her. Together, they sat in her living room, drinking chai and making small talk. After some time, Monal mustered her courage and began to ask the woman questions about Jesus.

“Who is this Jesus you talk about?” she asked.

The woman answered her, “Jesus is God’s Son, sent from God. He came because this world is broken by sin. Sin is anything that we do that is disobedient to God. The Bible teaches that all people have sinned and do not meet God’s standard. The payment we receive for our sin is death and separation from God. But God made a plan. He sent his Son, Jesus, who lived a perfect life and died on a cross for us. If we choose to follow after him, we will be saved from our sins. We will no longer face separation from God due to our sin.”

Monal was curious about something. She knew the burden the spirits kept on her village and she wanted to know if Jesus’ burden was the same. She asked, “In my village, we worship spirits. We must do certain things for the spirits to make them happy and to one day be saved. What must I do to make this Jesus happy? What does he require?”

The woman replied, “Jesus does not require a set of actions that save you, but a complete heart commitment to follow after him as Lord. You see, the Bible teaches that one sin makes us unworthy to be in God’s presence. It doesn’t matter how many good things we do. The good does not outweigh the bad. Once we sin, we are separated from God. But, God loved us so much that he made a way for us to come to Him by trusting in Jesus as our Lord and Savior. The Bible teaches that ‘God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him, should not perish, but have everlasting life.’”

Monal was amazed by what she heard. The spirits that she knew did not love her or her people. She had never before heard of a spirit who acted out of compassion or love. But this woman was telling her about a God who loved her enough to die for her. He didn’t expect fear or appeasement in return. Monal grew quiet for a moment while she pondered the woman’s words. Finally, she turned to the woman.

“I think the words you are telling me are good and true,” she said. “But I am afraid. My family has worshipped the same spirits for generations. Won’t they be angry if I choose to deviate from the path they have given us?

The woman replied, “You have nothing to fear. The spirits you worship are powerful, yes, but the Jesus that I am telling you about is more powerful. He is the creator of the spirits. The Bible says, ‘Jesus is the image of the invisible God and the firstborn of all creation. By Him, all things were created, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones, dominions, rulers or authorities- all things were created by him and for him. He is before all things and in him, all things hold together.’ Do you understand what I am saying?”

Monal considered the woman’s words. She wasn’t sure that she understood everything, so she asked, “Are you telling me that Jesus is more powerful than the spirits my village worship?”

“Yes,” the woman replied. “Jesus created them out of nothing. He gave the spirits existence, just like he gave us existence. Because he is the creator, he has power over the things which he created. He has power over the good spirits and the bad spirits.

As Monal considered these words, suddenly, a problem entered her mind. “Wait!” she exclaimed. “Jesus is a man. How can he be more powerful than the spirits we worship? I have seen their power. No man could defeat them!”

The woman smiled. She answered, “Jesus was a man, yes, but He is so much more than a man. You see, the Bible teaches a great mystery. God is a triune God. He is one god with three persons: God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit. The three are three separate persons, yet at the same time, one. And God the Son came down to earth as a man named Jesus. Jesus lived as fully God and fully man. And then he died on a cross for our sins. But God raised him back to life! And after he rose, he ascended to heaven, as the firstborn from among the dead. God is spirit. Yet, he is also the Creator and King of the Universe. The spirits you fear are no match for His power.”

Monal asked, “If someone wants to follow this Jesus, what would they need to do?”

The woman replied, “The Bible teaches that no good works can make us good enough to be with God. God requires perfection and none of us are perfect. When we do wrong, we sentence ourselves to death. But God made a way for us. The Bible teaches that, ‘if we confess with our mouths that Jesus is Lord and believe in our hearts that God raised him from the dead, we will be saved. For it is with the heart that one believes and is declared right with God, and with the mouth that one confesses and is saved.’ So, to follow after Jesus, we admit that we have done wrong things. We believe that Jesus died for us and rose again. We confess those wrong things to the Lord and commit to follow Jesus for the rest of our days.”

Monal was astonished. She said, “Wait! The spirits we follow require certain sacrifices and rituals. And even after we do all these things, we can never be assured that we will be with God.”

The woman replied, “If one follows after Jesus, he will be with God. Salvation is a free gift of God. God’s word says, ‘For it is by grace we are saved, through faith. This is not from ourselves, but it is the free gift of God.’ While this may seem easy, it is far from it. You see, you must confess that Jesus is Lord. This means that you acknowledge that Jesus is the only one deserving of your devotion. God’s word also teaches that is the only God to worship. He tells his people, ‘The Lord, your God, the Lord is one. You will have no other gods before me.’”

Monal asked, “Do you mean that if I make Jesus Lord, I can no longer worship the village spirits?”

The woman nodded. “Yes,” she replied. “When you make Jesus Lord of your life, you stop following all other gods and spirits because you believe that He, the Creator of the spirit world, is Lord over the earth and the spiritual world. He alone is worthy of our worship. He alone can save us.”

Monal’s heart was moved. She looked intently at the lady and said, “I would like to follow this Jesus. I believe that he is Lord.”

The woman smiled and nodded. She took Monal’s hand and asked her to pray. Monal was confused. What on earth did praying to this Jesus look like? She looked up questioningly at the woman. She smiled again and said, “Praying is like talking to Jesus. It doesn’t require a special formula. God is a living spirit. Remember that his followers worship him in spirit and in truth.”

Monal closed her eyes tight and thought about what she knew about Jesus. She said slowly, “Jesus, thank you for coming to earth to pay for my sins. I know that I have done things that displease you and I understand that I cannot do anything to make myself right before God. But you have given me the opportunity to come before you by confessing that you, Jesus, are Lord and by believing that God raised you from the dead. Jesus, you are my Lord. I will follow no other spirit, but you. Please forgive me of my wrong things and give me new life. Thank you, Jesus, for all that you have done.”

When Monal opened her eyes, the woman grinned at her and gave her a big hug. She said, “Welcome to the family, dear sister.” Monal felt peace as she stepped out of the house…peace that she had never felt when she followed the spirits. Peace that only comes from Jesus.