Intro. A. There were many thrilling and unusual things that accompanied the ministry of Jesus.
   1. He healed people with every kind of disease.
   2. He defied natural laws and walked on water.
   3. He taught as no man ever taught.

B. The most extraordinary was His challenge of Satan's power.
   1. This is the center-act of these verses.
   2. Jesus cast out a devil.
   3. This act raised a great controversy.

V. The Act And The Accusation.

A. The act of casting out a devil:
   V. 14  11. "casting out" = ἔκβαλλω = "to throw out of"
   2. "devil" = δαίμων = In N.T. the word is applied to evil spirits. They appear as special powers of evil in the service of Satan. They influence the physical and psychical life of human beings. They may take the place that belongs to the spirit, so that there is a disturbance.
   3. Not all sickness is caused by demon possession.
   4. Most, if not all, at this time is a result of the disorder in all things caused by the rebellion of Satan and the sin of the first couple.
   5. "dumb" = ἄτυχός = blunted, lame, of tongue, dumb.
   6. "wondered" = γαρ μαραθοί = "to be astonished."

B. What some of them said, an accusation.
   V. 15  11. They did not deny what had been done.
3. Jesus is stronger than Satan.

III. Those Who Are Freed From Demoniac Power Must Fill The Empty Space with God.

A. The unclean spirit driven out, what happens?

Vs. 34
1. It is not destroyed.
2. It seeks rest.
3. If it finds none, it returns. This may explain why Jesus had them enter swine. Matt 9:31-32.

B. The freed persons may be enslaved again.

Vs. 25
1. "Swept" = ὄμορφον = "to cleanse with a broom".
2. "Garnished" = ἀνοίξεως = "to set in order," adorn"

Vs. 26
3. Perhaps Jesus was warning these people that the man who was dumb might be seen in a worse state than he was before healing.

IV. The Things That Matter Most.

A. Some things are a great blessing.

Vs. 27
1. The thoughts of a woman express some.

Vs. 28
2. The thoughts of Jesus reveal the greatest source.

B. There are many good things that happen to us in our spiritual world.

1. To attend a place of worship.
2. To have children who serve God.
3. To be able to do things for others.
4. The better blessing,
   1. Hearing God's word.
   2. Keeping God's word. = οὐλάσσονω = to watch, be sleepless, to watch, guard, defend, hence to preserve, to main tain.