

Dealing with Demons

Call to Worship: Mark 5:1-19

- 1** They went across the lake to the region of the Gerasenes.
- 2** When Jesus got out of the boat, a man with an evil spirit came from the tombs to meet him.
- 3** This man lived in the tombs, and no one could bind him any more, not even with a chain.
- 4** For he had often been chained hand and foot, but he tore the chains apart and broke the irons on his feet. No one was strong enough to subdue him.
- 5** Night and day among the tombs and in the hills he would cry out and cut himself with stones.
- 6** When he saw Jesus from a distance, he ran and fell on his knees in front of him.
- 7** He shouted at the top of his voice, "What do you want with me, Jesus, Son of the Most High God? Swear to God that you won't torture me!"
- 8** For Jesus had said to him, "Come out of this man, you evil spirit!"
- 9** Then Jesus asked him, "What is your name?" "My name is Legion," he replied, "for we are many."
- 10** And he begged Jesus again and again not to send them out of the area.
- 11** A large herd of pigs was feeding on the nearby hillside.
- 12** The demons begged Jesus, "Send us among the pigs; allow us to go into them."
- 13** He gave them permission, and the evil spirits came out and went into the pigs. The herd, about two thousand in number, rushed down the steep bank into the lake and were drowned.
- 14** Those tending the pigs ran off and reported this in the town and countryside, and the people went out to see what had happened.
- 15** When they came to Jesus, they saw the man who had been possessed by the legion of demons, sitting there, dressed and in his right mind; and they were afraid.
- 16** Those who had seen it told the people what had happened to the demon-possessed man—and told about the pigs as well.
- 17** Then the people began to plead with Jesus to leave their region.
- 18** As Jesus was getting into the boat, the man who had been demon-possessed begged to go with him.
- 19** Jesus did not let him, but said, "Go home to your family and tell them how much the Lord has done for you, and how he has had mercy on you."

Pastor Wesley mentioned before the lesson started that about 50% of the emails that he receives on the CAYA site deal with homosexuality, physical and sexual abuse.

- ✓ Remember, no one has a "special hell" for one sin over another!

The man mentioned in Mark 5 was a little different – he had an unclean spirit.

Difference between an attack by the devil and being afflicted by a demon

| Attacked by the Devil | Afflicted by a Demon |
|-------------------------------------|---|
| External | Internal |
| Comes from haters, physical sources | Binds us when no one else is around |
| Can be seen | Some could be sexual, past, lust, fornication, etc. ✓ They control our self-esteem, grief, depression, destructive behavior |
| | You know you have been afflicted when you find yourself OUT THERE; ✓ You know, that "last time" prayer to God, but you are back out there any way? |
| | Uncontrolled feeling |

Back to the man in Mark 5 with the unclean spirit, NO ONE could tame him.

- Every demonic affliction is not necessarily something you asked for
- You've got to deal with it, not knowing where it came from
- ✓ Chained flesh, but could never control his spirit
 - Demons always have a way of finding another way
 - Many try to bind their demons by coming to church
- ✓ Day and night, the man is on the mountains (a high place) and in the tomb (a low place)
Question: What do you do when you are anointed with the spirit, but been afflicted with a demon?
The hypocrisy drives you crazy. Every now and then, the demons drive you to the tombs.
- ✓ The man cuts himself → may be a sign that he doesn't want to live like that any longer!
 - Demons don't cripple you because they don't come out all of the time
 - Please recognize that you can be FLY and AFFLICTED!
- ✓ When you live with a demon long enough, you know the "places/spaces" not to go
 - You know the places where you demons are
 - Dead relationships
 - Demonic relationships

Why demons are so difficult to deal with

1. They hide themselves
 - a. Attach themselves in your personality
 - i. "this is just the way I was made"
 - b. Attach themselves to your past
 - i. Experience as a child – not having control (abuse, disrespect, etc.)
 - ii. You will convince yourself that you cannot change
2. They haunt you (memory)
 - a. Selective memory
 - i. Remember all of the pleasure and no pain
 - b. Remind you of all the times you tried to stop and failed
 - i. Self-defeated
3. They have help!
 - a. We all have people in our lives with demonic behavior (saved, but not fully delivered)
 - i. They don't feel the same conflict as you do
 - ii. People who condone what you are convicted of
4. They have heritage
 - a. You aren't the first one in your family
 - i. Addiction, molestation, incarceration, etc.
5. They have a home
 - a. "Don't make us leave this area" (churches, cities, etc.)
 - i. An example would be Lenox Mall in Atlanta, GA. Ever been there? Enough said.

Question: What do we do to fight the demons and find deliverance?

- ✓ There is no easy answer
- ✓ Some of us may have to fight it every day of our lives
 - An affliction is an attack you can handle

Prescriptions

- Man (from Mark 5) falls down, after running to Jesus and worships Him.
 - ✓ Worship, fall down, pray, etc.
- You don't have to be delivered to worship Christ!
 - ✓ Don't let the demon convince you otherwise

Read Romans 5:20 – God's grace is greater than your sin

Read I John 1:9 – you are staying away from God unnecessarily. You can't self-medicate a demon.

1. Worship
 - a. The more you feel your spirit, you'll be able to quench the demon
2. See it and name it from God's perspective
 - a. See it the way the word sees it
 - i. Culture will endorse what the word of God has condemned
NOTE: there is a 12:1 ratio of gay characters vs. married couple characters in the sitcoms today.
NOTE: God told Adam if he wanted dominion, he had to NAME IT!
3. Get yourself in an environment to help you with what you are dealing with
 - a. Devil will allow one demon to be exorcised to bring another in
 - i. Example: homosexuality → fornication with the opposite sex
 - b. You need people who can hold you accountable!
 - c. You need some "holy" folk around you
4. Living witness of people who have been transformed by the power of Christ
 - a. There is no demon that Christ cannot deal with
 - b. There is no secret what God can do