

Sermon Series: Spurred on to Holiness (and Power) by Immersing Ourselves into the Life of Christ Through the Eyes of the Apostles – A Harmony of All Four Gospels

Sermon Title: A Legion of Demons is No Match for the King of Glory

September 29, 2019

Today's Scripture: See insert

Series Theme verse: Acts 4:13 Now when they saw the boldness of Peter and John, and perceived that they were uneducated, common men, they were astonished. And they recognized that they had been with Jesus. (ESV)

Introduction: Personal spiritual warfare accounts and the lack of permanent victory. The difference between warfare vs. repentance philosophy.

2 Timothy 2:24–26 [24] And the Lord's servant must not be quarrelsome but kind to everyone, able to teach, patiently enduring evil, [25] correcting his opponents with gentleness. God may perhaps grant them repentance leading to a knowledge of the truth, [26] and they may come to their senses and escape from the snare of the devil, after being captured by him to do his will. (ESV)

Read Bob DeWaay's account describing Satan's protection racket

Main point: When God grants a person repentance and they trust in Jesus alone for salvation even a legion of demons must abandon the person they held in sin's captivity.

Context:

Exegesis:

1. Jesus' compassion is universal. No single ethnic group can claim an elite spiritual status or hold on God's love. *So they sailed on down to the country of the Gerasenes, which is across from Galilee.*
2. Sin never affects just the sinner. There is always collateral damage. *two with demon possession, coming out from the tombs, extremely fierce, so that no one could pass along that way;*
3. Satan and his demons seek to humiliate, degrade, dehumanize and eventually kill those who willingly their surrender bodies and souls to their control. *a man in particular who had long had demons and wore no clothes, and who lived not in a house but in the tombs (caves). and continually, night and day, he was in the mountains and among the tombs, uttering cries and cutting himself with stones.*

4. Demons (unclean spirits) know who Jesus is and they recognize his authority to punish them. *And behold, ² when he saw Jesus from a distance, ³ he (the head demon) cried out ² and ran, and ³ fell down before him and ² worshipped (fell prostrate in recognition of a higher authority) him. ³ And he said in a loud voice, ¹ "What are you doing to us, ² Jesus, Son of the most high God?"*
 - However, falling down in respect and fear is not the same as loving worship - James 2:19 You believe that God is one; you do well. Even the demons believe—and shudder! (ESV)
5. Demons know that their freedom to remain unpunished is temporary and they know they have a horrible sentence awaiting them sometime in the future. *Did you come here to torment us before the time? Before God I implore you, torment me not!"*
 - *Matthew 25:41 [41] "Then he will say to those on his left, 'Depart from me, you cursed, into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels. (ESV)*
6. The delayed departure of the demons was not because Jesus had to fight hard and found it difficult to remove the huge number, but because he was gracious enough to let the demons plead for mercy! *For he had begun to order the unclean spirit to come out of the man.*
7. It is not uncommon for a person to be a host to multiple demonic entities. *Then Jesus asked him, "What is your name?" ² And he answered saying, "My name is Legion ; for we are many" ³ (for many demons had entered into him).*
 - Psychiatrists and counselors often misunderstand the behavior known as Multiple Personality Disorder as being attributed to demons.
8. The temporary place of confinement and torment the demons feared being sent to was a place the Bible calls "The Abyss". *And he began to beg him much not to order them away from that region ³ into the abyss.*
 - *Revelation 9:1–2 [1] And the fifth angel blew his trumpet, and I saw a star fallen from heaven to earth, and he was given the key to the shaft of the bottomless pit. [2] He opened the shaft of the bottomless pit, and from the shaft rose smoke like the smoke of a great furnace, and the sun and the air were darkened with the smoke from the shaft. (ESV) See also Revelation 11:7; 17:8; 20:1 & 3 where the abyss is translated "The bottomless pit"*
 - Jude calls it "Utter darkness" vs 6 while Peter in 2:4 calls it tartarus
 - Satan and his demons will be confined to the abyss for a thousand years before they are judged and sent to the Lake of Fire for all eternity.
9. The demons asked permission to enter the pigs (yes animals can be inhabited by evil spirits) so that at least they could fulfill their mission of destruction and death.
 - Jesus consented because 1) he wanted everyone to see their purpose is death for humans and animals and 2) one human life is worth far more than 2,000 pigs.
10. The herd of pigs was likely being raised to be future sacrifices to the Greek god Zeus and the Roman god Jupiter (the same god).

- This destroyed the livelihood of the owners and made them very upset.
- How many people stay away from Jesus because they think he is going to take away from their money, pleasures, pursuits, goals. . . Unless the Holy Spirit convinces them of their sin, they will never experience the amazing joys of fellowship with the King and the Father.

Application

1. When a life has been transformed by Jesus' power and blood, it is a command and a natural response to tell others of what Christ has done. The greater the transformation, the greater the enthusiasm.
2. The first place to start witnessing is our own families. They are the ones who will truly know if it is real.