

06 – HOW JESUS DEALT WITH DEMONS – Pt. 2

Mark 5:1-4 – “Then they came over to the other side of the sea, into the country of the Gadarenes. And when He had come out of the ship, immediately there met Him out of the tombs a man with an unclean spirit, who had his dwelling among the tombs; and no one could bind him, not even with chains, because he had often been bound with shackles and chains. And the chains had been pulled apart by him, and the shackles broken in pieces; neither could anyone tame him.”

Observations:

- a.) This man wasn't just influenced, he was “possessed” [v. 2, 15].
- b.) When a demon enters a man, the man becomes like the demon.
- c.) The demon gave this man supernatural strength – (but not 24/7).
- d.) There are degrees of demonic possession. People can have demon issues and still function (for the most part). But when the demon manifests THEN it gets bad.
- e.) Clearly, this fellow was tormented.
- ✓ That's always the case. There's no such thing as a demon giving you peace. (They're tormentors.)

v. 5 – “And always, night and day, he was in the mountains, and in the tombs, crying (shrieking), and cutting himself with stones.”

- ✓ Some people use this passage to “prove” that people who cut themselves have a demon. You can't assume that! (It could be a devil. But it could also have a natural cause, like a chemical imbalance).
- ✓ If the problem is the flesh, you can yell “come out” until Jesus comes! Nothing's going to happen, because you can't cast out flesh!

- ✓ On the other hand, if it's a devil, you can counsel them (and challenge them to be more disciplined). But *still*, nothing's going to happen, because you can't counsel a devil! (That's a good thing to remember: You can't cast out flesh; and you can't discipline devils.)

v. 6-7 – “But when he saw Jesus afar off, he ran and fell on his knees. And cried with a loud voice, and said, What have I to do with thee, Jesus, thou Son of the most high God? I adjure thee by God, that thou torment me not.”

- ✓ Notice, that demon knew Jesus. (Of course, he did! On numerous occasions, Jesus had to tell demons not to reveal who He was. They *all* knew Him.)
- f.) The demon spoke through the man, using the man's own voice.
- ✓ If you were there, you'd have heard both sides of the conversation! Jesus spoke *out loud*, and the demon spoke *out loud*, (through the man). The disciples heard all of it.
- ✓ Later, it's going to say, “... all the devils besought Him. (To hear *all* the demons, you'd need the gift of discerning of spirits, because they were speaking in the spirit realm.)

v. 8 – “For he said unto him, Come out of the man, thou unclean spirit.”

- ✓ Jesus used two phrases when He dealt with demons. He either said, “Come out”, or “Go”. In this case, He used both (Matt. 8:31-32a).

g.) This fellow had a lot of demons

v. 9 – “And he asked him, ‘What is thy name?’ And he answered, saying, ‘My name is Legion: for we are many.’ ”

- ✓ “Legion” was a Roman Army term. (It referred to a unit of 6000 men.) Since he called himself “Legion”, most likely, he had 6000

demons in him. (We know he had at least 2000 demons, because they entered 2000 pigs.)

*v. 10-15 – “And he (Legion) besought him (Jesus) much that he would not send them away out of the country. Now there was there nigh unto the mountains a great herd of swine feeding. And **all the devils besought him**, saying, Send us into the swine, that we may enter into them. And forthwith Jesus gave them leave. (Matt. 8:32 tells us how He did it. He said, “**Go**”).*

*And the unclean spirits went out, and **entered into the swine**: and the herd ran violently down a steep place into the sea, (they were about two thousand;) and were choked in the sea. And they that fed the swine fled, and told it in the city, and in the country. And they went out to see what it was that was done. And they come to Jesus, and see him that was **possessed with the devil**, and **had the legion**, sitting, and clothed, and in his right mind: and they were afraid.”*

- ✓ It's significant how that's phrased. It says he was “**possessed**” with the devil (**singular**), and he “**had**” the legion. (One “possessed” him, but he had all these others.)
- ✓ It seems that's always the case. One demon gets in and possesses the man, then he lets others in.

*Mk. 1:23-24 – “And there was in their synagogue a man with **an** unclean spirit (**one**); and he cried out (the one that possessed the man spoke through him), Saying, Let **us** alone (**plural** – See, there's more in there); what have **we** to do with thee, thou Jesus of Nazareth? art thou come to destroy **us**? **I** know thee who thou art, the Holy One of God.*

*And Jesus rebuked **him** (the one in charge), saying, Hold thy peace, and come out of him. And when the unclean spirit had torn him, and cried with a loud voice, **he** came out of him.”*

- ✓ You never see Jesus casting out demons one at a time. **When He dealt with the one in charge, all the demons had to leave.**

- ✓ Let's go back to Mark 5.

*v. 15 – “And they come to Jesus, and see him that was possessed with the devil, and had the legion, **sitting**, and **clothed**, and **in his right mind**: and they were afraid.”*

- ✓ This gives us a glimpse of what he'd been like up to now. **They were surprised when they saw him sitting.** (So, previously he'd been restless; agitated). **They weren't used to him being clothed.** (So, evidently, he'd been running around naked.) **And now that he's free, he's in his right mind.** (So beforehand, he hadn't been right mentally).

*v. 18 – “And when he (Jesus) was come into the ship, he that had been possessed with the devil prayed (asked) him that he might be with him. Howbeit Jesus suffered him not, but saith unto him, **Go home to thy friends**, and tell them ...”*

- ✓ So, he hadn't always had demon problems. He had a “home” and he had “friends”. **At one time, he was normal.** But, somehow, he'd opened a door and gotten possessed. (You have to wonder what he did. Sadly, we're not told.)
- ✓ The most important thing I get from this story: Jesus was always in control. He acted with total authority.

You Have Authority in His Name – (Luke 10:19)

- ✓ The Bible talks about more than just “casting out” devils. It also mentions “resisting” and “rebuking” them. Let's look briefly at each.

1. Resisting the Devil

- ✓ Too many Christians are always asking **God** to do something about the devil in their lives. But the Bible tells **you** to resist him. What does it mean to resist? “Resist” is a military term meaning, “to **take a**

firm stand, to refuse to be moved ... and, ultimately, to push back".

- ✓ When you "resist" the devil, you're drawing a line in the sand, and saying, "Forget it!" to whatever he's trying to do in your life.
- a.) Resisting Requires That You First be Submitted to God – (Ja. 4:7)
- ✓ If you're not submitted to God, the devil will laugh at your resistance. So, *first* submit to God, *then* resist the devil.

b.) You Have to Resist the Devil in Faith

1 Peter 5:8-9 – "*Be sober, be vigilant, (be clear-headed, stay alert), for your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walks about, seeking whom he may devour. Whom resist, steadfast in your faith ..."*

- ✓ Faith is involved in spiritual warfare. When you resist the devil, you have to *believe* he'll leave.

2. Rebuking the Devil

- ✓ Rebuke – To reprimand sharply. Jesus not only rebuked the devil, He also rebuked situations that the devil had caused. He rebuked the *wind* and *waves* (Mark 4:37-39), and *sickness* (Luke 4:39). Ultimately, rebuking what the devil does **is** rebuking the devil.
- ✓ The word "rebuke" implies strength. (Demons don't listen to weakness.)
- ✓ One day, as Smith Wigglesworth was waiting for a bus, a woman walked up to the bus stop with her little dog following her. She coaxed the dog, "Go on home, honey! You can't come with me. Go on home." Just then the bus pulled up. She stomped her foot, and hollered, "GIT!" The dog ran off. Smith Wigglesworth yelled, "That's the way you've got to do the devil!" You have to know your authority; and you have to speak with authority.