

I. Nature of Demons

- A. Mark 1:23-25 (ESV): 23 *And immediately there was in their synagogue a man with an unclean spirit. And he cried out,* 24 *"What have you to do with us, Jesus of Nazareth? Have you come to destroy us? I know who you are—the Holy One of God."* 25 *But Jesus rebuked him, saying, "Be silent, and come out of him!"*
- B. Demons are foul, unclean, evil spirits bent on stealing, killing, and destroying God's creation, starting with man. They are tormentors (torturers) that thrive on causing people pain. They do not want to be bothered. They hate the Light! And they do not want to be cast out. So light makes them very uncomfortable.
1. John 10:10 says they steal, kill and destroy. That is their job description!
 2. They are tormentors: IE. woman with issue of blood, Mt 18. unforgiveness - leaders to anger, bitterness, accusation, young palm reader is trafficked in Acts 16:16. etc.
 3. Unclean spirit - physically, morally, unclean. Works of the flesh show up as unclean spirits and are defined by their activity. Works of the flesh easily help ministers discern what is going on.
 4. Dry places - Luke 11:24; Matthew 12:43; Isaiah 35 Wilderness places.
 5. Demons are comfortable among tombs. Luke 8:26. Notice it is an unclean place.
 6. It is the nature of demons to inspire terror and intimidate people.
 - a) The demons in Mark 5 ran from the tomb to meet Jesus.
 - b) They were screaming and hissing threats to intimidate Jesus.
 - c) They were fierce, but Jesus was more fierce, and...calm.
 - d) They were so afraid they were begging Jesus for permission to leave. This is how all demons should respond to us as believers.
 7. Demons are good at hiding. *"They shall go into holes of rocks, and into the caves of the earth, from the terror of the Lord..."* (Isaiah 2:19) And since they dwell in darkness, an extra challenge is added in finding and driving them out. If not detected, then they are safe to remain. IE. (At the marriage conference they were referred to as baggage.)
 - a) But we are children of the Light! We walk in the light of the glory of the Gospel of Jesus Christ. 2 Corinthians 4:6
 - b) As we grow from glory to glory, those demons that hide under the cover of darkness or ignorance are exposed by the Light and must flee.
 8. Demons do not want to be bothered, they hate light, and they do not want to be cast out. *"And he cried out with a loud voice and said, "What have I to do with You, Jesus, Son of the Most High God? I implore You by God that You do not torment me."* (Mark 5:7, NKJV). *"Now there was a man in their synagogue with an unclean spirit. And he cried out, saying, "Let us alone! ..."* (Mark 1:23-24, NKJV) Demons don't want to be bothered and they don't want to submit, so they resist

II. Nature of Jesus

- A. It is the nature of Jesus to undo what the devils have been doing! John 10:10, "*I have come that you might have life and have it more abundantly.*"
1. Jesus was on a specific mission to find and destroy the demonic strongholds in this man. Jesus comes to make wastelands a well watered garden. (Isaiah 35.)
 2. Jesus loves 'blowing up' strongholds of darkness in people's lives.
 3. Jesus came that we would have life and have it abundantly! This tormented man was about to be set free! Jesus had one word for the demons. "GO!" And immediately, they left him.
- B. Luke 11:20 (ESV): *But if it is by the finger of God that I cast out demons, then the kingdom of God has come upon you.* When Jesus arrived, the demonized man ran to Jesus. The demons began speaking through him, trying to intimidate the Lord. They were fierce, but Someone more fierce came their way, and He was calm. They were so afraid they were begging Jesus for permission to leave. This is how all demons should respond to us as believers.
1. Demons have levels of authority in which they operate. According to the level of darkness in a person's life it will be the level that demons have the right to operate. The more darkness, the more authority they have.
 2. When the light comes, the darkness is disturbed and its power is broken. Light destroys darkness and knowledge destroys ignorance. "*But through knowledge the righteous will be delivered.*" (Proverbs 11:9). Therefore, we must discuss the subject of demons and Jesus' power over them. Do not leave them alone! The more light you walk in, the more deliverance you will experience. Evil spirits will try everything to stop people from receiving the knowledge that would set them free.
- C. Jesus was a deliverance preacher.
1. In Mark 6:13, He cast out many demons.
 2. In Luke 4:18, He preached deliverance to the captives.
 3. The religious system of Jesus day did not disturb demons but Jesus came along and did! It is much the same today. Have some fun! Remember, "*the gates of hell will not prevail!*" In Christ, your victory is sure!

III. Introduce Devils To The Light

- A. Demons do not reside in your born-again spirit; it is impossible. But they can hide in your soul (mind, will, emotions) and your body (sickness). IE.= baggage.
- B. This is why it is important that we renew our minds with the Word. And we seek sanctification body, soul and spirit.
1. "*Now may the God of peace himself sanctify you completely, and may your whole spirit and soul and body be kept blameless ...*" (1 Thessalonians 5:23, ESV). IE. Vampire are fried in the light!

2. As we grow from glory to glory, those demons that hide under the cover of darkness or ignorance are exposed by the Light and must flee.
- C. Ephesians 5:11 says, "*...have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather expose them.*"
 1. As we walk in the Light, it is only natural that those evil spirits hiding under cover of darkness be found out and driven out by the Light.
 2. Some would argue that we should not talk about the devil because it only glorifies him. We are not glorifying him; we are exposing him when we talk about him. If you do not talk about demons, they will only remain hidden in silence.
- D. Many people argue that deliverance should be swift. But most deliverances will be little by little. The possessed are swept clean! Most times instantly! But you and I experience deliverance most times gradually.
 1. In Exodus, the Lord drove out the nations little by little. He did that for their own good so that they would be strong enough to keep what the Lord gave them.
 2. Often, our deliverance is proportionate to how much we are growing in the Lord.
 3. It is essential to understand this, or you may become discouraged with others you are ministering to or with yourself in slow deliverance progress.
 4. Don't be deceived into thinking that all deliverance must be instantaneous. Jesus said this way, "*By your patience possess your souls.*" (Luke 21:19, NKJV); Hebrews 6:12 *Through faith and patience inherit the promises*. God, in His mercy, allows us to grow in grace so that that which is swept clean is filled with the light of His word and able to stand when the 'former tenants attempt to come back with seven other more wicked than themselves.
 5. The progressive nature of deliverance is that we learn to fight against darkness successfully. In Judges chapter three, nations were left behind to teach Israel how to war. Many believers today do not know how to stand against evil and throw demons out. They have not been trained to 'slay the giants' in their lives that keep them in bondage.
 6. You are a giant slayer! Rise up and possess your own soul!