

The Demon Possessed Man

Matthew 8:28-34

July 11, 2021

Gadarenes- comes from the town of Gadara, the capital of the region about eight miles South East of the southern tip of the Sea of Galilee. The town was a mixture of Jews and Gentiles.

Even the demons believe.

"You believe that there is one God. You do well. Even the demons believe—and tremble!"

James 2:19

Demonic possession is **spiritual warfare**. (fighting unseen forces)

"For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places."

Ephesians 6:12

A person cannot be filled with the Holy Spirit and demonic possession at the same time.

Satan has full access to the unbeliever, but has **limited** access to the Believer.

"I do not pray that You should take them out of the world, but that You should keep them from the evil one. They are not of the world, just as I am not of the world."

John 17:15-16

When dealing with demonic forces, the Holy Spirit has to fight for us.

We have to do our part to resist the forces of evil that are always present around us.

"Finally, brethren, whatever things are true, whatever things are noble, whatever things are just, whatever things are pure, whatever things are lovely, whatever things are of good report, if there is any virtue and if there is anything praiseworthy—meditate on these things."

Philippians 4:8

We deal with demonic forces on a daily basis. We allow Satan access to our minds through things we take in. Therefore, we give him **influence** in our lives.

"And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God."

Romans 12:2

It is not that the things we fill our lives with are bad, it just takes our focus off of Him.

"Becoming who God wants you to be starts with your thoughts.
Always remember that satan's number one strategy is to plant
unhealthy thoughts in your mind, repeating them over and over
until you start to think they are your own thoughts." ~ **Dr. Tony Evans**

You are who you hang around. The more time you spend with God, the more you look and act like Him. The more you divide your time and let other things influence you, the more you look and act like the world.

Extended periods of time without any spiritual connection takes my **focus** off of Jesus and places it upon myself giving satan influence in my life.

“This Book of the Law shall not depart from your mouth, but you shall meditate in it day and night, that you may observe to do according to all that is written in it. For then you will make your way prosperous, and then you will have good success.” **Joshua 1:8**

There has to be a balance in our lives. So many times the volume of our focus and energy are placed in things that have no eternal value at all. Superficial things are put in and spiritual things are left out. Then we make excuses and say that we do not have time for things that are of God because our lives are filled with activities that leave God on the sidelines.

Why not bring God into the activities that pull us away from Him?

“But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you.” **Matthew 6:33**

Would you admit that we need Jesus more today than ever before?

Would you also admit that we spend less time working on our relationship with Christ than ever before?

“And whatever you do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through Him.” **Colossians 3:17**

When we are in sync with God our relationship with others benefit, as well as ourselves.

The only way that we can combat demonic influence in our life is to be more **connected** with Jesus. One way He uses to do that, is through the body of Christ. We are not meant to do this alone! We need members of the body on our journey to help us survive.

Invitation/Prayer focus

If you are here today and sense an uneasiness in your spirit and are seeking salvation, today is the day. You are not promised tomorrow.

“For He says: “In an acceptable time I have heard you, and in the day of salvation I have helped you.” Behold, now is the accepted time; behold, now is the day of salvation.” **2 Corinthians 6:2**

We have a choice to make today.

- Are we going to serve God or are we going to follow our human nature that leads us away from God?

We as Christ followers have the power to control the influence Satan has over us, on a moment by moment, day by day basis. It is found in one word and that is CHOICE.

- What will you choose today?