



Casting Demons Out

In our study of *The Miracles of Jesus*, one area that is essential to look at is the casting of demons out of people. It is important to understand what demon possession was and then to realize why it was necessary for Jesus to cast them out miraculously.

A. Background of Demon Possession

1. Demons possessing people is something regulated to the time of Jesus on earth - there are a few examples in Acts
2. Demon possession is also referred to as having an "unclean spirit" (Mk 1:23) or "evil spirit" (Lk 7:21)

Demons were living _____

- they may be the same thing as the devil's angels (Mt 25:41)

- This was not mental illness or addictions to drugs or alcohol
- This was not the result of sin (children were possessed)

1. The demons could speak
2. They recognized who Jesus was before the crowds did (Mk 5:7). They did not curse Jesus.
3. They possessed children (Mt 15:22)
4. People understood that demons had possessed others (Mt 15:22)
5. The demons had a will of their own (Lk 11:24-26)
6. A person could have multiple demons
 - Mary Magdalene had 7 demons (Lk 8:1)
 - The man in the cemetery had a legion (Mk 5:9)
7. They understood the authority Jesus had over them
 - have You come to destroy us? (Mk 1:24)
 - do not torment me (Mk 5:7)
 - do not send us to the abyss (Lk 8:31; Jude 6)

B. What Demons Did to People:

- Incredible strength (Mk 5:4)
- Extremely violent (Mt 8:28)
- Unusual behavior: living in tombs, naked (Lk 8:27); screaming day and night (Mk 5:5); cutting self with rocks (Mk 5:5)
- Foaming at the mouth (Mk 9:18)
- Throws self to ground (Mk 9:18)
- Falls into both fire and water (Mk 9:22)
- Blind and mute (Mt 12:22)
- Tormented cruelly (Mt 15:22)

Lk 4:41 "And demons also were coming out of many, crying out and saying, 'You are the Son of God!' And rebuking them, He would not allow them to speak, because they knew Him to be the Christ."

C. Looking at Three Unique Accounts:

1. Mark 5:1-19
Putting the demons in swine made a visible proof that they had been cast out
2. Mark 9:14-29
3. Mark 7:24-30

What great fear this must have caused parents

D. Jesus commanded the demons to depart (Mk 9:25)

1. There was no "exorcism" method
2. They had no other option than to obey Jesus
3. One possessed man was in the synagogue (Lk 4:33-37)
4. The critics accused Jesus of having a demon (Jn 8:48; 10:20)

5. People are not possessed with demons today

- the only way to cast out a demon was miraculously

Why was it necessary to have demons and for Jesus to cast them out?

1. It demonstrated that Jesus was more powerful than _____. The "strong man" had been bound (Mt 12:29)
2. This was proof that the kingdom of God has _____ (Lk 11:20)
3. This showed Jesus had authority over the _____ world (Lk 4:36-37) - the unseen.