

What we can learn from Jesus Casting out Demons

- I. Introduction
 - a. What more horrible condition could a person be in than to be possessed by a demon?
 - i. His will is not his own
 - ii. He is acting in harmful ways to himself and others
 - iii. Becomes unclean
 - iv. An object of shame, revulsion, contempt and pity
 - b. We are not told how possession came about
 - i. But there are many, many examples of demon-possession in New Testament times
 - ii. It appears that the demonic forces of evil were permitted much more leeway at that time to influence the minds and souls of men women and children
- II. KEY THOUGHT: In Luke 11, Jesus cast out a demon, and from that event and the discussion that follows there are several important lessons we can draw from these instances of Jesus casting out demons
- III. Lessons
 - a. There are demonic spiritual forces (v. 14)
 - i. Their actions may not be as obvious as they were then.
 - 1. Mute – HERE
 - 2. Blind (Matt. 12:22)
 - 3. Even children affected (Matt. 15:22; 17:15; Luke 9:39)
 - 4. Cast people into fire or water to destroy them (17:15)
 - 5. Living in uncleanness and shame (Mk. 5:5)
 - 6. Causing people to injure themselves (Mk. 5:5)
 - 7. They would gang up on people (Mk. 16:9; Mark 5; HERE)
 - ii. But they are there (Eph. 6:12)
 - iii. This is what they would do to us if they were able
 - b. Jesus has ultimate power over evil spiritual beings (v. 14)
 - i. He casts them out
 - ii. All of them (Mat. 4:24)
 - iii. With a word of command (Matt. 8:16)
 - iv. Didn't allow them to speak (Mk. 1:34)
 - v. They marvel:
 - 1. "It was never seen like this in Israel" (Matt. 9:32)
 - 2. "Could this be the Son of David?" (Matt. 12:23)
 - c. Some will always find a way to disbelieve Jesus (v. 15-19)
 - i. Today there are many who would say, show me a miracle and I will believe
 - ii. But these people saw the miracles and still demanded signs
 - iii. They WOULD NOT believe
 - iv. Evidence and faith
 - 1. Lack of Evidence + Willful Belief => Stubbornness
 - 2. Evidence + Willful Disbelief => Willful Ignorance

3. Evidence + Willing Belief => Faith
 4. Jesus never asks us to believe without evidence (John 10:37-38; John 14:11)
- d. Jesus' power means His message and His work were from God (v. 20)
 - i. There is no other conclusion that can be drawn
 - ii. He acted with the finger of God
 - iii. The kingdom of God has come to the world
 - e. Jesus has power over things which would overpower us (v. 21-22)
 - i. We are overpowered by sin
 - ii. We cannot free ourselves
 - iii. But Satan and his demons were overpowered by Jesus
 - iv. If Jesus can subdue them, he can subdue the sin that has us subdued
 - v. He took captivity captive (Eph. 4:8; 2 Cor. 10:4-5)
 - f. We should be on Jesus' side (v. 23)
 - i. Whose side should we be on?
 - ii. How far on that side do we want to be?
 - iii. On the edge, taking a little of what each side has to offer?
 - iv. That is madness
 - v. A house is divided against itself cannot stand.
 1. Not even Satan could keep things going if he cast his own demons out
 2. We can't be constantly casting Satan out, then Jesus out, then Satan out without seriously damaging our spiritual, mental and emotional well-being
 3. A double-minded man is unstable in all his ways (James 1:8)
 - vi. Whose side are you on!?!
 - g. It is not enough to have evil removed, we must fill our lives with good (v. 24-26)
 - i. Sometimes we think that good is the absence of evil
 1. That breaking all our bad habits will complete our reformation of Character
 2. No, the message of Christianity is not simply "Don't be evil!" it is the call to live like Christ
 - ii. The truth is, we can't just be un-evil
 1. Doing right is THE WAY to stop doing wrong,
 2. We have not been given any other way
 3. Rom. 12:21 – overcome evil with good
 4. We cannot die to sin with living for Christ
 5. We cannot be free from slavery to sin without becoming bondservants of righteousness
 6. We cannot serve two masters, but we also cannot serve zero masters
 7. Once again, as Jesus said, he who is not for me is against me

- iii. Are you trying to overcome some besetting sin?
 1. Replace it with good works
 - 2.
 3. 1 Th. 1:9 – from idols to God
 4. Eph. 4:22-24 – put off old man, put on Christ
 5. Eph. 4:28 – From stealing to laboring
 6. Eph. 5:18-20 – not drunkenness, singing
 7. Col. 3:8-9; 12-14 – put off wickedness, put on goodness

IV. Conclusion

- a. Demon possession is an extremely severe spiritual problem
 - i. It is a hopeless situation
 - ii. Unless someone with infinitely more spiritual power than we have chooses to help us we are doomed to a degraded, less than human existence and no hope in eternity
- b. But so is sin
 - i. It is a hopeless situation
 - ii. Unless someone with infinitely more spiritual power than we have chooses to help us we are doomed to a degraded, less than human existence and no hope in eternity
 - iii. The difference between a demon-possessed man and a sinful man
 1. The demon-possessed man is held captive to evil against his will, the sinful man is captive to evil by his own will
 2. The demon will only submit to Jesus if forced to, the sinful man will only submit if forced to
 3. For the demon-possessed man to recover, the demon must be cast out by someone with Divine power, the sinner needs Divine power also
 4. The demon-possessed man needs to involuntarily come into contact with it. All a sinner needs to do is change his mind about sin and decide to access that Divine power.
 5. It appears that many demon-possessed men hated the evil that was in them and loved Jesus for freeing them from it. Many sinners love the evil that is in them and hate Jesus for calling them out of it.
 6. In Jesus day, Satanic forces would overcome the will of men and women to keep them from coming to Christ. Today only our own will can keep us from coming to Christ.
- c. Part of Jesus' ministry was casting out demons
 - i. It showed that he could do something about sin
 - ii. And that he would do something about sin
 - iii. He left heaven to cast out these demons
 - iv. AND to provide forgiveness for our sins
- d. Invitation
 - i. SONG: Who will follow Jesus?