

Sovereign Grace Church

“Jesus as Exorcist”

February 3, 2019

Matthew 8: 28-34

One of the stranger things the world associates with Bible-believing Christians is their belief in and involvement with the world of the unseen. God of course is unseen and Christians believe in God. The Holy Spirit, as the third person of the Trinity is also unseen. Yet He is said to indwell believers and is responsible for their redemption and power in working out their new life in Christ. Angels are unseen as well and Christians believe in their existence and their interaction with the material world. Demons are also unseen and Christians who take the Scriptures seriously also believe in their existence and involvement in this world. But how many of us can be said to have experienced such involvement?

Jesus was directly involved with demons and their human hosts and expected His disciples to be as well. We will look at His encounter with the two demoniacs from the tombs in today's passage in Matthew (parallel accounts in Mk 5: 1-17 and Lk 8: 26-37) and see if we might learn something of use in our own struggles against the world, the flesh and the Devil.

1. A verse-by-verse explanation of Matthew 8: 28-34

- v. 28

- v. 29 Jms 2: 19

- vv. 30-32 Matt 12: 43-45; 25: 41

- vv. 33-34

2. Lessons concerning demons and their involvement with us

- **Do demons really exist?**

- **Can demons be inherited? Mk 7: 25; Ex. 20:5**

- **What provides a “home” for demons? Col. 2: 13-15**

- **Can Christians be “demon-possessed”?**
I Cor. 6:20; Ezk 18:4; Rom. 7:19-20; I Jn 3:8; I Thess 2:18; II Thess 3:3; I Jn 4:4; Eph. 4: 26-27; 10f.; II Cor. 12:7; I Pet 5:8

3. Closing Thoughts II Cor. 10: 4-5

Questions for Conversation and Reflection

- 1. What are your thoughts on angels and demons? How much influence do you believe they have on your life? Can you think of any biblical passages which depict personal encounters with demons or Satan?**

- 2. What is the world's understanding of angels and demons? Can you think of any movies or TV shows that depict demons and/or demonic activity? How close do they come to the biblical descriptions? Do you think all demonic encounters are violent ones?**

- 3. Why do you think there is in our day such an obvious fascination with occultic type activity in such an equally obvious materialistic age? Do you think you can be intelligent and well-educated and still believe in and perhaps strive with demons?**

- 4. Do you think the ordinary Christian should be able to deal with people who are demonized? Did Jesus expect them to be? Or do you need to have a special office (Exorcist) to deal with them? Does the thought of dealing with demons make you fearful? If it does, should it? What do you think Jesus meant when He said after a failed attempt at exorcism by His disciples, “This kind can come out by nothing but prayer and fasting.”? (Mk 9: 28-29)**