

DEMONOLOGY AND DELIVERANCE #1

Introduction

Tonight marks the beginning of a major new teaching series on the subject of:

“Demonology and Deliverance”

Over the next several months, we will be studying the nature and operation of demons (demonology) and how to be delivered from their power (deliverance).

In other words, we will be teaching on the topic and also putting the teaching into practice. The teaching will be very basic.

Demonology 101

Putting “ology” on a root word means “the study of”.

Biology is the study of “bios” which means life.

Theology is the study of “Theos” the study of God.

So “Demonology” is the study of demons.

So why do we do “demonology”?

One of the basic rules of any kind of warfare is that you must be able to identify the enemy. We cannot defeat the devil if we don’t know who he is or how he operates. As Paul said...

2 Corinthians 2:11

...lest Satan should take advantage of us; for we are not ignorant of his devices.

Satan takes advantage of anyone who is “ignorant of his devices”. There is a lot of ignorance today! So in this series we will be answering some basic questions:

QUESTIONS WE WILL ANSWER

- **What are demons?**
- **Where do they come from?**
 - **What are they like?**
- **How do demons enter a person?**
- **How do we know if we have one?**
 - **How do we cast them out?**

Our foundational text for the series is from Mark's version of the "Great Commission"; the words spoken by Jesus, to His disciples, after His resurrection from the dead:

Mark 16:15-17

And He said to them, "Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature. He who believes and is baptized will be saved; but he who does not believe will be condemned. And these signs will follow those who believe:

Then He gives a list of 5 signs that would follow those who follow Him. But in this series, we will focus on the *first* in the list...

In My name they will cast out demons..."

Several of the modern translations read this way...

Mark 16:17

And these signs will accompany those who believe: in My name they shall cast out demons...

Jesus Himself says that the first of the 5 signs that should mark the ministry of the Church is that "In His name (by His authority), those who believe will be casting out (or expelling) demons!"

Notice that the ministry of expelling demons is not limited to Pastors or Prophets; it is a sign that is to follow "all those who believe"!!!

But if we took a survey today and asked people to list the 1st 5 things they think of regarding the Christian church in America, how many would put "casting out demons" on the list at all?

This is why we are taking up the task of teaching this series; because it is so *needed* and so *neglected*. It is fair to say that casting out demons is...

I. "The Forgotten Ministry of Jesus Christ"

A. Take Another Look at the Gospels

1. Any honest reading of Matthew, Mark, Luke and John quickly reveals that the vast majority of the earthly ministry of Jesus consisted of 3 things:

- He preached the Gospel
- He healed the sick
- And He cast out demons

Kim Harrington

“It’s nearly impossible not to notice the threefold aspect of Jesus’ ministry. Everywhere He went he did three things: He preached the Gospel, He healed the sick, and He cast out demons. On occasion He multiplied food, walked on water or did various other miracles, but nearly every ministry day included the three mainstays of what Jesus Christ considered the Gospel: preaching, healing, and delivering people from the bonds of Satan.”

2. Compare the ministry of Jesus with the Christian culture of our day:

- All truly Christian churches preach the Gospel
- Some churches practice healing the sick
- But it is rare to find any church that is casting out demons!

3. And this is not by accident! The devil himself is at work to keep the church in the dark about what he is doing.

Derek Prince

“Satan has developed a special opposition to (deliverance) ministry. He is, by choice, a creature of darkness. He prefers to keep the true nature of his activities concealed. If he can keep humanity unaware of his practices, or even of his very existence, he can use the twin tools of ignorance and fear to open the way for his destructive purposes.”

a. **All most people know about demons comes from movies** like “The Exorcist”; I hate these movies because they put people into fear and also keeps them ignorant of what real deliverance looks like.

b. In “The Exorcist” the priest dies!

c. We cannot expect the world to know the truth about demons or even be afraid of them. But the same is often true in the church. As **Derek Prince** said:

“Unfortunately, ignorance and fear are not confined to non-Christians. They are often at work inside the church. All too often, Christians have treated demons with superstitious dread, as if they were ghosts or dragons.”

4. We can cure ignorance with good teaching; but fear is a spirit!

2 Timothy 1:7

God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power, love and a sound mind.

5. There are over 150 verses in the Gospels, (Matthew, Mark, Luke and John) that directly refer to demons; and dozens of references in the epistles. Yet many ministers never teach on demons or casting out demons out of fear.

“The fear of demons is from the demons themselves.”

Corrie Ten Boom

(My version: If you have a fear of demons you probably have one)

6. My personal opinion is that many churches do not deal with demons because many ministers fear the subject; not that they fear the demons as much as they do the reaction some members may have to teaching on the topic. But the result is that the people do not get free.

7. Our approach will be to stick to the scriptures and teach on the topic using the ministry of Jesus as the pattern; with that in mind let's look at the 1st miracle recorded in the Gospel of Mark; which was casting out demons.

II. Jesus Sets the Pattern for Deliverance Ministry

A. The 1st Miracle In Mark (Mark 1:23-28)

There are 7 things we can learn from these 6 verses.
Context: Jesus has come to Capernaum and is preaching...

Mark 1:23-24

Just then a man in their synagogue who was possessed by an evil spirit cried out, ‘What do you want with us Jesus of Nazareth? Have you come to destroy us? I know who you are — the Holy One of God!’

1. The first thing to notice is that demons go to church!
 - a. This man was a religious man!
 - b. Non-religious people did not go to the synagogue.
 - c. There is nothing here to indicate that this man was not a regular church attender or that he was unknown in the congregation.
 - d. I can tell you that this is still true today! Demons still go to church. But it was the authority of the preaching of Jesus that stirred them up.

2. The 2nd thing here is the mistranslation of the Greek word rendered here as “possessed”.

Derek Prince

“The term “demon possessed” is not accurate; the word in Greek is passive; this man was literally “demonized”. The term “demon possessed” has turned off many people. But a true Christian is possessed by Jesus! A Christian cannot be ‘demon possessed’. But Christians can be demonized; they can have areas of their life where they are not in control.”

a. A better translation would be “under the influence of an unclean spirit”.

b. Back to the text:

Mark 1:23-24

Just then a man in their synagogue who was possessed by an evil spirit cried out, ‘What do you want with us Jesus of Nazareth? Have you come to destroy us? I know who you are — the Holy One of God!’

3. The 3rd thing to notice is that demons can speak through the person they are influencing! (I can tell you this is true from my personal experience in ministering to people).

4. The 4th thing to notice here is that the demon spoke in the singular and in the plural: “What do you want with US?” Then he said “I know who you are.”

a. From this we learn that demons run in groups; where there is one there are usually others; the one who speaks represents the rest. (We will see this again in another place.)

5. The 5th thing of interest here is that the demons knew immediately who Jesus was even when the people did not! Back to the text...

Mark 1:25-26

But Jesus rebuked him, saying, "Be quiet, and come out of him!" And when the unclean spirit had convulsed him and cried out with a loud voice, he came out of him.

6. The 6th lesson here is that Jesus did not deal with the man; he dealt with the demon!

a. He did not cast the man out of the church, He cast the demon out of the man!

b. Today we do the opposite; we try to get rid of people causing trouble in the church instead of getting rid of the demon that's causing trouble in the people!

7. The last thing to notice here are the 2 *results* of what happened:

a. First, the people were amazed because Israel had never seen anything like this.

Mark 1:27

Then they were all amazed, so that they questioned among themselves, saying, "What is this? What *new doctrine* is this? For with *authority* He commands even the unclean spirits, and they obey Him."

- These were religious Jews who knew their Old Testament. But deliverance was new to them.

Derek Prince

"The Old Testament prophets performed many miracles; they healed the sick, raised the dead, split the Red Sea and the Jordan River. But there is no record that any of them ever cast out a demon. This was reserved for Jesus. It was a unique demonstration that the Kingdom of God had come upon the people of His day."

- The Jewish people were looking for their Messiah to come and establish the Kingdom of God. This was Jesus way of proving that He was their Messiah and He had brought the Kingdom with Him!

But if I cast out demons by the finger of God, then surely the Kingdom of God has come upon you.

Luke 11:20

- To this day, there is no greater sign of the presence of Kingdom authority than when we cast out demons.

b. The 2nd result of what had happened is in the next verse:

Mark 1:28

And immediately His fame spread throughout all the region around Galilee.

- There are 3 things that will make Jesus famous and attract people to Him: Preaching the Gospel, healing the sick, and casting out demons
- This is what Jesus did: And it is what He commissioned His church to do!

III. Conclusion: Back Where We Started

A. Mark's Version of the Great Commission

1. Jesus appears to His disciples after being raised from the dead and begins with a rebuke:

Mark 16:14

Later He appeared to the eleven as they sat at the table; and He rebuked their unbelief and hardness of heart, because they did not believe those who had seen Him after He had risen.

- a. Remember who “the eleven” were: they were the best He had.
- b. But He rebukes them for their unbelief and hardness of heart.
- c. Would He rebuke us?

2. Then He gives them their commission: *notice the 3 things underlined.*

Mark 16:15-18

15 And He said to them, "Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature. 16 He who believes and is baptized will be saved; but he who does not believe will be condemned. 17 And these signs will follow those who believe: In My name they will cast out demons; they will speak with new tongues; 18 they will take up serpents; and if they drink anything deadly, it will by no means hurt them; they will lay hands on the sick, and they will recover."

a. These were the 3 main things in the ministry of Jesus; and He sends us forth to do the same.

3. **Are we doing it? If not, why not?**

**Closing Prayer and Instruction on
"The Forgotten Ministry of Jesus"**