

Title: Demon Possession

Text: 8:28-34

I want you to turn in your Bibles, if you would please, to Matthew chapter 8. Today we are speaking on a subject that is so misunderstood and confused. A subject will often brings to people scary feelings. Not understanding what the Bible teaches. Or, perhaps not caring to talk about it. The subject of demonism is certainly a fasinating subject. And the Bible does teach the subject in detail.

What I would like to do tonight is look at those poritions of Matthew which deals with the subject of demon possession. In the book of Matthew there are four passage on the subject. Four passages that I would like to study. Now, we are not going to look at any so called personal experience. But we want to look at the Bible evidence. And find out what the Bible has to ~~say~~ say about demon possession. Before we do, shall we look to the Lord in a moment of prayer.

Prayer

I would like to begin reading at Matthew chapter 8 verse 28....

(Read 8:28-34).....(Read 9:32-34)

(Read 12:22-30).....(Read 17:14-20)

Now, in the N.T. there are a total of 80 referencesv to demons. 80 reference to demons. So, it is a much discussed subject in the N.T. I would like to deal with this subject in three or four simple ways.

Number one, I would like to give to you from the Bible a discription of demons. And this is from the Bible. This is not my thory, my concept, but what the Bible says are demons. A discription of demons. And I would like to do this in two ways.

First of all, as to their characteristics of personality. Their characteristic of personality.

And secondly, as to their creation. How did we ever get demons?

Now, first of all in discrbing demons as to the characteristic of their personalities, we notice several things from the passages that we have read.

First of all, in chapter 8, if you would like to turn back there. In chapter 8 and verse 29 and 31 you will notice that demons have the ability to speak. They have the ability to speak. The demons spoke. And they spoke directly to Jesus Christ. The demon can speak.

Secondly, you will notice in Vs 29, the Bible says that they are aware of future events. Notice Vs 29: "they cryed out saying, 'what do we have to do with you, Son of God? Have you come here to torment us before the time?'"

Now, the Bible tells us that the destiny of demons and of Satan himself is Hell, itself, the lake of fire. They know that. They are fully aware of that. They are aware of future events. They have intelligency. And they were asking Jesus: Have you come now to torment us before the time? Demons are fully aware, as is Satan, himself, that God will one day judge them eternally.

Thirdly, in Vs 31 I notice that demons "entreat him." This is a word of emotion. They begged with all their hearts.

I notice, also, in Vs 29 that they "cried out". They cried out.

In Vs 28 it says that they were "exceedingly violent". In other words, they have emotions. The demons have emotions. They have characteristics of personality. They have intelligency, They have the ability to speak. And they have emotions.

Also, in James chapter 2 verse 19, we learn that the demons believe and shudder. They know there is a God and they shudder. They have emotions.

Fourth, I notice in Vs 31 that it says "if you are going to cast us out, send us into the herd of swine."

This tells me that they had a will. They had a choice about the swine. They have a will. So

So, they basical have all the characteristics of personality. They have intelligence with the ability to speak. They have emotions and they have will.

Now, secondly, I would like to look at demons from the stand point of how they got here. That is, creation. And agian, the Bblble give us some facts.

First of all, in chapter 9 verse 34 you will notice this: "The Pharisees said, about Jesus, He casts out the emons by means of the ruler of the demons."

Now, this passage as well as other passages in the N.T., the demons are associated with Satan, himself. This should be a key as to who they are and as to how they were created/....

In chapter 12 verse 24-26 you will notice something. It is very obvious that Jesus is referring to the subject of demonism and Satan, himself. ~~They~~ That they are involved in his kingdom. They, the demons, are like Satan who is the prince of the demons.

I think it is also interesting that Satan is called a demon. Satan is called a demon in several passages of the N.T.

So, Satan is just like a demon. Meaning: if you are going to describe demons you are also describing Satan who is the chief/~~the~~ ruler over them. In fact Satan is called "the demon"....

Now, I would like you to turn to Psalms 33 verse 6.....In the O.T. Psalms 33 verse 6...Here we find an interesting passage dealing with creation. Psalms 33:6 says: "By the word of the Lord the heavens were made, and by the breath of His mouth all their host."

Now, "the host of the heavens" always in the Bible refers to the angelic beings that God created. The "host" ...all the inhabitants of the universe, all these angelic creatures, were created by God, himself. By the breath of his mouth. God spoke the worlds into existence. He also created angels.

Now, will you turn, please, back to the N.T. to 2 Peter chapter 2. 2 Peter chapter 2 verse 4.....We read: "For if God did not spare angels when they sinned, but cast them into hell".

That word "hell" is an interesting word. It is the Greek word "tarderus". It is like the word "hades" which is the temporary place of all those who have died. That is the wicked dead.

"And he committed them to pits of darkness, reserved for judgment." Vs 6 says: "and if He condemned the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah"..... Just ~~whole~~ that in your mind and turn over to Jude.....The book of Jude.... Vs 6...."And angels who did not keep their own domain, but abandoned their ~~proper~~ abode"..... Now, the angels are in the heavens. They dwell with God.

These angels have left their proper abode where they belong. The Bible says, "He, God, has kept in eternal bonds under darkness for the judgment of the great day".....The judgment of angels...

Vs 7 ... "Just as" Notice that very carefully. "Just as" Also, notice Vs 8 "Yet in the same manner"

This is all talking about the same thing.

Vs 10 ... "But these men" All talking about the same thing. Angels who left their first estate who left their real place or proper abode and now they are reserved by God unto judgement because of thss.

Now, what was it that they did? Vs 7... (Read Vs 7-8, 10)

Now, I want to point out something, here. According to the Bible there is a group of angels, no matter what you might think about this subject, The Bible teaches that there is a group of angels that have sinned. They have left their original creation. They have left their proper abode. They have fallen somewhere.

They are, also, according to the Bible guilty of the same sin of Sodom and Gomorrah: Forincation and immorality.

Also, the Bible teaches that these fallen angels have defiled the flesh. Even though the Bible teaches that angels do not have bodily substance. Yet, they can take the form of a body. They can indwell a body. And according to the Bible, these evil angels that have fallen, are defiling the flesh, they have committed forincation somehow.

Now, the only answer that I can possible give you as to how and when this happened is found in the book of Genesis chapter 6. And I would like you to turn there, please. Genesis chapter 6

~~My st / I / my /~~ But I must say and urge upon you tonight, least you go out of here and misunderstand or misinterpret what I say, this does not necessarily mean that this is the interpretation of Genesis chapter 6.

However, I believe it is very interesting. Genesis 6 verse 1.
(Read 6:1-2)

O.K. let's try and interpret. The "sons of God" either refer to "believer or they refer to the common usage of the term "sons of God" which is "angels."

In the O.T. the "sons of God" are referring to "angels." So, there are two possible interpretations. The "sons of God" means "righteous men." "~~believ~~ "believers...or, Angels....But, will you notice something. It this refers to "b~~el~~ievers" then this is a mighty stange verse. It says that the sons of God saw the daughters of men. Do you realize what you are saying if you believe that th~~is~~s is referring to christians? or, to those who believe in God? It means that the Lord never saw fit to receive women into a possition of believe in himself.....Because of this, I believe this passage refers to Angels. And what I am saying to you tonight in discribing demons is this. There is a group of angels whom God created who left their habitation, are reserved by God unto judgement, and the sin that they committed according to the Bible is: forination. They defiled flesh. Some how they inhabited womens bodies. And it is very interesting in Genesis 6, it tells us that the sons of God saw the daughters of men and they were beautiful to them. /~~and~~ they took wives for ~~them~~ themselves. And right away ^{The Lord} ~~it~~ says, Vs 3, "my Spirit shall not strive with man forever because he also is flesh and his days shall be one hundred and twenty years.....(READ Vs 4-7)"

Now, I believe the best explanation of demonism is in this alone. That God created angels. A vast host of them. Thousands upon thousands. Millions of angels. And a part of these angels left their first estate. And I believe also if you would compare Isaiah 14 and E~~z~~ekiel 28 which talks about the fall of Satan himself, that no daubt these angels fell with Satan. There is also a reference in Revelation which says that 1/3 of the stars of heaven fell with Satan. And in that passage it calls Satan an angel. He is one like unto them. He is the king of them. And they fell.

Now, angels are not body substance. They do not have bodies like you and I. But, according to the Bible they can inhabit bodies. For example, at the resurrection two men stood by in white garments.

At the ascension of Christ two men said: "you men of Galalee, why do you stand looking pp into the heavens."

Angels can appear like men. And it is only logical that ~~angels~~ if angels of God can appear as men, so can angels under Stantans control.

So, Demons can appear like men and inhabit human bodies. And I believe this ~~scripture~~ account in Genesis becomes the foundation for an explanation of 2 Peter 2 and the book of Jude.

But, anyway they were created by God and they fell. Also, in Matthew chapter 12, they are called spirits. They are not bodily substance.

Now, let us come to another line of thought. Turn back, please to the book of Matthew and chapter 9. The book of Matthew chapter 9. I would like to share with you the deeds of demons. WHAT DO THEY DO? They are spirits. They can inhabit human bodies. They are created angels. And they are now under the control of Satan. 1/3 of the heavenly host fell with Satan.

There is one thing I would like to make perfectly clear at this point. Satan is not ~~omnipresent~~ ^{Omnipresent}. That means he can't be every where at once. He is not like God. He can't be everywhere at once. In fact in the O.T. it says that Satan goes from one place to another. He would like to be in several places at once. But he cannot. The way he seems to be at many places at once is through his cohorts. Through the fallen angels.

Now, what do they do? You will notice in Matthew chapter 9:32-33 that demons can ~~inflict~~ ^{inflect} physical and mental infirmities. Demons can inflect physical and mental infirmities. I hope that you, if you are going to share with someone what I am saying, that you will be careful to write down exactly what I say. According to the Bible they can inflect physical and mental infirmities.

But, I want to say at this point. That this does not mean that every time a person becomes sick physically or mentally, it is a result of demonic activity. And your scripture there is John chapter 9. You do not have to turn there. But the subject of that chapter is a man born blind. And the disciples said to Jesus, "who sinned, this man or his parents." Jesus said "neither. The reason this man was born blind is so the works of God might be displayed in him."

The Bible clearly teaches that all sickness is not a result of sin. The Bible, ^{also}, teaches that much sickness is the result of sin. It also teaches that physical and mental infirmities can be caused by these demons.

You will find this taught in Matthew chapter 9....chapter 12:22....chapter 17:15. You will also find it taught in Mark chapter 5.

Now, there is another interesting passage that I would like to mention. You don't have to turn there. But the passage is 2 Corinthians 12:7. The Apostle Paul says that he had an infirmity in the flesh, a messenger of Satan to buffet him.

The word "messenger" in 2 Corinthians 12:7 is "angel." Someone what inflecting upon him his physical infirmity. That is what the Apostle Paul says in 2 Corinthians 12:7. So, demons can cause physical and mental infirmities

Now, secondly, According to the Bible in 1 Timothy 4, and I would like you to turn there please, 1 Timothy chapter 4, they can influence a person to depart from the faith. They can influence a person to depart from the faith. Here is one example. 1 Timothy chapter 4. Vs 1 says: "But the Spirit explicitly says that in later times some will fall away from the faith, paying attention to deceitful spirits and doctrines of demons."

There it is. Demons have doctrines. They have teachings. They are persuading men to do things. And what they are persuding for? Departure from the faith.

This leds to ~~the~~ the question: CAN A DEMON PERSUADE A CHRISTIAN DO STOP BEING A CHRISTIAN? Well, he might cause him to think that. But, he cannot cause him to depart from the faith. In the first place, it is not talking about our faith in Christ. Notice, very carefully, it is "THE FAITH. Whenever the definite article ~~is~~ "the" is before the word "faith" it is referring to the sum total of God's teaching in his word. THIS IS THE FAITH. (wholed up Bible)...Departure from the faith means that a person is departing from the revealed will of God in the Word of God.

But, I want to say this that I am very confident that demonic activity centered in Christians is this: TO CAUSE US TO DEPART FROM THE TEACHINGS OF THE WORD OF GOD.

I find that very few christians are daily, personally, studying the Word of God for themselves....

And you thought to recognize this fact, that your hesitancy to study the Word, much of this is caused by Satan and his demons. They are persuading you to depart from the revealed will of God. Satan knows that if you equip yourself with the Word, you are going to be a man of God perfectly equipped for all good works. (2 Tim 3:17).

According to 2 Peter he is an adversary going about among Christians seeking whom he may devour.

Now, Satan isn't concerned about a dead fish going down stream. He is concerned about a live one trying to buck the current. So, my friends we should expect opposition when it comes to the Word of God.

Now, third, as to deeds of demons. The Bible tells us that they stir up jealous, factions, and pride among believers. Turn to the book of James. The book of James chapter 3.....James chapter 3 beginning at Vs 13

(Read 3:13-15)

Notice, jealousy and selfish ambition. All characteristics of the flesh. The wisdom is not from God. It is from demons. ~~It~~ It is earthly, natural, and demonic. Demons, according to the Bible, will stir up jealousy, faction, pride among believers.

Now, fourth, in Revelation chapter 16 dealing with the future, we know that demons have the power to work miracles. That can work miracles and perform signs. They can do the miraculous.

In Acts 16:16 a miracle was performed by a demon possessed girl. She correctly prophesied concerning Paul in Philippi. This gal knew just what Paul was preaching. And she gave outward testimony to that fact. But the fact that she performed certain miracles; and was being used by a couple of men for profit. Demons can work miracles.

And I feel led to say this. Satan has power. He has more power than human beings. Satan is not as powerful as God. He is not as powerful as the Holy Spirit. The Bible says in I John 4:4 "greater is he that is in you, than he that is in the world." Satan is not more powerful than the Spirit of God which dwells in you. But, Satan is powerful. And we should recognize this. And Satan can perform miracles...

And the Bible tells us that these signs and miracles, if it were possible might even deceive the very elect. So, we should not be too surprised if we hear of so called miracles that we can not acknowledge to God.

Now, fifth, according to the Bible, they can enter and control human beings. According to the Bible demons can enter and control human beings. In Matthew chapter 12:45 it says this: (Read Vs 43-45)

O.K. here is the point: ^{IF} You don't substitute an empty life with the power and presence of the Holy Spirit, then it is subject to the possession by demons. You may not consciencely understand this. You may not be able to put it into a test tube and analyze it. You may not know how you are being influenced by demons. But, the Bible teaches that it is possible.

Now, there is something that we should be very clear on. Satan can not possess a christian. Demons cannot possess a christian. And the great verse on this is I John 4:1-4. These verses teach that we need to test the spirit to see if they are of God. And in Verse 4 of I John 4 it says that greater is he that is in you than he that is in the World. The Spirit of God will not let demons possess a vessel that he possesses. Let us never forget that. The Holy Spirit of God will never dwell where Satan dwells.

So, my christian friends, even though you may be influenced by Satan and demons, you will never, according to the Word of God, be possessed by demons.

Now, I can't discuss with you all that the Bible teaches about demons. Time will not permit. But, there is one final thing that I would like to share with you before we leave. WHAT IS THE DELIVERANCE FROM DEMONS?

If this is demonic activity, how do I get deliverance from it? Maybe I am a christian, maybe I am being influenced against the Word of God, maybe I have grown cold in my christian life and I don't know why, maybe I am unresponsive to the power of the Holy Spirit, I can't pray, I can't study the Word....I want to, but I can't...maybe it is a result of demonic activity
WHAT DO I DO?.....WHAT DO I DO.....?

Your answer is in the book of Ephesians chapter 6. And I would like you to turn there, please. The book of Ephesians chapter 6....

By the way, as a general principle James 4:7 says: "resist the devil and he will flee from you." BUT HOW DO I RESIST HIM? HOW DO I DO IT? Ephesians chapter 6....Here is the best answer in the word of God.... Ephesians 6 beginning at 10.....(Read 6:10-14a)

My friend if you are not going into the Word of God and learning God's truth, you will not be able to stand. Do you know how Jesus resisted the devil? He used the Word of God. He quoted scripture to the devil. Vs 14: "Put on the breastplate of righteousness".....

Understand that your righteousness is not your own. If you start ~~believing~~ believing that something you do will gain favor with God, Satan is going to have a foothold in your life. He will defeat you, discourage you and frustrate you. Whenever Satan's attack comes to us, we must recognize that by faith we have been saved and counted righteous with God. The moment I ask Christ to come into my life I receive his righteousness.

Vs 15 "have your feet shod with the preparation of the Gospel of peace."

That means to put sandals on and go with the gospel. Folks who are not sharing the Gospel of Christ, are opening themselves up to demonic activity.

Vs 16: "in addition to all"....Notice that.....Above everything else "take the shield of faith with which you will be able to extinguish all the flaming missiles of the evil one." That is Satan, himself.

Vs 17:.....(Read 17-18)

O.K. God's answer for deliverance from demons is right here. I don't want you to leave tonight and ~~sp~~ spend all week talking about demons. I believe that is just what Satan would have you do.

A lot of Christians believe that if they know a lot of information about demons in the experiences of people, that somehow that will bring victory. That is crazy....That is false....Demonism is a hard subject to understand. Know what the Word of God says....YES.....But, my friends, then come with simple faith to the Word of God, trusting the power of the Holy Spirit in your life, and don't worry about demons. The shield of faith can extinguish all the flaming darts of the evil one.

If you come often to the services of this church, you know that I don't speak much on this subject. I don't often preach on demons. WHY?.... Because I am not interested in getting people all concerned about demonism. They maybe influenceing your life all week long. But I want to tell you that the shield of faith....faith in the Word of God....Faith in Christ....faith that I have been counted righteous....Faith that the power of the Holy Spirit is in me...faith and trust in God is the answer to this whole problem.

They maybe influencing you through materialism. I don't know what Satan is using in your life. I know what he does. But now I recognize that delieverance is through putting on the whole armor of God.

And did you notice Vs 18? Praying ~~always~~.....always.....a constant prayer life is vital to ~~winning/victory~~ conqoring the enemy and having victory in Jesus Christ.

I close with this. In Matthew 25:41 the Bible says that hell was prepared for Satan and his demons. If you go to hell, you will be trustpassing. God doesn't want you to go. And you don't have to go, if you will believe on the Lord Jesus Christ ~~to be your savior~~ you can be saved here tonight. Now, maybe you don't understand all that has been shared tonight. But God can save you and give you the greatest delieverance that you have ever experienced. Complete forgiveness of sin. God will give you eternal life and the power of the Holy Spirit will be available to you. May God help you to see that tonight. And may he help you to recieve Jesus as your saviour....

Let us close in Prayer