

Free From Evil

“Nothing’s Impossible” Miracle Series

Did You Know?

Demon-possession is displayed quite prominently in the New Testament, especially the Gospels. You don’t see it as much in the Old Testament, unless you count all idolatry as demons masquerading as false gods. One of the reasons scholars believe there’s an uptick in demonic activity in the Gospels is because of Jesus’ ministry and the beginnings of the Kingdom of God through Him. Because Jesus arrives, demons are exposed by the Light of His gospel, and they are brought into the front lines of battle with God. But they cannot win, and they never do!

Monday, May 6, 2013

Read: Mark 5:1-20

Discuss: As we read through this passage again, what do you notice that interests you that perhaps Pastor did not spend as much time on? What do you see as the key to this passage, the main point of it? Some take out of it that we need to know demons’ names to cast them out, but this is the only time Jesus talks to a demon at length. What about the hints about Jesus being more powerful than anyone else?

Act: Because we know Jesus, we walk in His same power. There is no demonic force that you might come against that God has not given the victory for. We must be prepared to cast out demons, prepared in prayer, prepared in knowing God’s Word, prepared in having our spiritual armor on. But when we are prepared, we will see the victory of God and the freedom of the oppressed by demons!

Tuesday, May 7, 2013

Read: Matthew 4:24; 8:16; Mark 1:32;

Discuss: In all of these instances, these are short summaries of Jesus’ ministry in a certain town or on a certain day. They give the impression that He worked the long hours of the day to minister to the needs of the crowd. But what is most interesting is that those who are sick and demon-possessed and need saved are all mentioned together. The reason for this is that God came to save and heal and deliver. He does a whole and complete work in each of us, not partial. So if there are several issues at the moment of salvation, Jesus took care of all of them simultaneously!

Act: Do we minister to others in a holistic fashion? We could be accused of only ministering to one need rather than a person's whole need. Sometimes that means a lot of work for us because some people need a lot of attention. Jesus spent the time with the crowds and did a complete work. We should think of ways to minister in every area of someone's life, not just to one specific need. In an age of specialists, we need some generalists who can see the whole of a person's life and need, and minister to them specifically!

Wednesday, May 8, 2013

Read: Matthew 8:28-34

Discuss: Here we have, as most scholars would have it, the same account from our main text on Sunday, Mark 5:1-20. But this one has slightly different details. Take a piece of paper and outline the differences between the Mark account and the Matthew account. Why do you think some of these differences exist?

Act: Matthew's account is different in several ways than Mark's account. Sometimes that means that this event happened more than once, but some of the main parts of the account are so similar that it is probably the same story. Despite the changes, the same point is made, that Jesus has power over demons, no matter how many there are. We can put our trust in Him and not fear anything in the spiritual realm because of our all-powerful God!

Thursday, May 9, 2013

Read: Matthew 9:32-34; 12:22-32

Discuss: Today we look at two shorter accounts of demons being cast out, the mute man and the blind demon-possessed man. While the second passage gets into the Blasphemy of the Holy Spirit, which is giving credit for God's works to Satan and his demons, we want to focus on the connection that sometimes occurred between physical illnesses and demons. It is understood that the demons may have afflicted these people with these illnesses as part of their control.

Act: As Pastor pointed out on Sunday, demons do not play nice. When they control their subjects, they are violent, abusive, and they use people for their own means. Their control is wicked and destructive in its means and end. They don't care about harming people. They come in and trash the person. But God's Spirit rebuilds, exhorts, and encourages us! The way that God operates and the way that demons operate are totally opposite! Is there anything in your life that is not building you up, perhaps a way of thinking or a way you talk to yourself? It's good to be honest with ourselves, but an accusing voice is not from God!

Friday, May 10, 2013

Read: Luke 4:31-37

Discuss: There are a couple of surprises in our reading today. We might think that being in a church or a certain sacred space will keep demons at bay, but that is a pagan and mystic idea. This demon-possessed man is in the synagogue where the people meet to worship God! The demon throws the man on the ground, but surprisingly does not injure him. We can encounter demons anywhere, so we must always be prepared!

Act: Don't be surprised if you find demons in unusual places. We don't go and search for demons, but when they appear, it might surprise you at first where they are showing up. Can they be in the church? Sure. They were in Jesus' day. There is nothing physical that you can do to keep demons out, like reading the Bible with church members or just going to church. You must have the armor of God on and have a daily connection with Jesus in relationship!

Saturday, May 11, 2013

Read: Matthew 17:14-20

Discuss: This episode demonstrates to us the power of demons once again over the persons they control. This demon gave a disease to this boy and was destructive in its means. It would throw him into fires and water, to drown and kill him. This has been the basis for some scholars of suicidal attempts, perhaps from demonic possession more than the will of the person. While we should not always attribute suicidal attempts to demonic activity, there is certainly a case for the possibility here.

Act: Let us keep in mind that there are many factors in the spiritual and physical world for why things are the way they are. This section tells us that we need to have faith, even a tiny bit of it, like a mustard seed. That faith is part of the equation that God uses in His miraculous work. We as His servants can have faith in Him to see people healed, delivered and saved! Let us go in faith and be salt and light in our world!

Sunday, May 12, 2013

Read: Proverbs 31:10-31

Discuss: This week is Mother's Day! Pastor Jonathan is preaching the Mother's Day message this week, and this is a good primer passage on what it means to be a godly woman.

Act: If you have any questions Pastor Jonathan has not answered, feel free to ask him after the message or during the week!