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Groups Sermon Study Questions

Demons

April 15, 2018

Message Summary

Have you ever heard the phrase, "The devil made me do it?" It is often used when we feel our actions are compelled by an external force that is not out for good. The New Testament, the Gospels especially (Matthew, Mark, Luke, John), are filled with stories of people under demon control. In fact, 19 of the 27 books in the New Testament address demons in some manner. But do demons still exist today? Are they still a force in our lives? This week we examined demons, their role in this world, and how, through the Holy Spirit's power, we overcome their schemes.

Consider This

How would you describe a demon? Draw a picture, if you'd like to be creative, and share your description with your group.

Do you believe they are still active in the world today? Why do you believe this?

What do we know about demons?

Study Questions

Read Isaiah 14:12-15*; Jude 6; Ephesians 6:12

1. Were demons created as demons?

- 2. How did they come in opposition to God?
- 3. Where does the real struggle with demons exist?
- 4. Does this struggle manifest itself in the physical world? Why do you say that?
- *The phrase Morning Star here alludes to Satan and his fall. It stands in contrast to Jesus as our True Morning Star as seen in Revelation 22:16.

The Bible is clear on how demonic forces, ultimately have no power over us. Below is a list of "weapons" that God has given us in order to withstand the attacks of the enemy.

Read The Armor of God- Ephesians 6:10-16

- 4. What are the elements of the Armor of God?
- 5. How are they "put on"?
- 6. What element of the Armor of God that is easy for you to wear? What takes a little more work?

Read Living God's Way-1 Corinthians 10:13; Ephesians 4:17-32; James 4:7

- 7. What does it mean to "put off" your old self?
- 8. What does it mean to be "out on" your new self?
- 9. How can following God's way to live help us stand up against demonic forces?
- 10. How does resisting temptation help us in this fight? Are we alone when temptation strikes?

Read Calling on the Name of Jesus-Romans 8:37-39; Philippians 2:9-11; 1 John 4:4-6

- 11. How do these promises of God help us stand against demonic forces?
- 12. Have any of these promises helped you stand in the past?

Read: Prayer- Ephesians 6:17-20; 2 Thessalonians 5:17

13. Why is prayer so important in our struggle against the enemy?

14. What does it look like for us to pray continually? How does that help us?

Action Steps

For Further Study

Below is a list of interactions between Jesus and demons in the Gospels (compiled from Baker's Evangelical Dictionary of the Bible reference below). Take some time this week to compare what you find in these accounts.

- Jesus' temptation (Matt 4:1-11; Mark 1:12-13; Luke 4:1-13);
- The blind man (Matt 9:32-33);
- The blind and mute man (Matt 12:22-23; Luke 11:14);
- The Canaanite woman's daughter (Matt 15:22-28; Mark 7:24-30);
- The man in the synagogue (Mark 1:23-27; Luke 4:31-37);
- The Gerasene demoniac (Matt 8:28-34; Mark 5:1-20; Luke 8:26-37);
- The boy with seizures (Matt 17:14-20; Mark 9:14-29; Luke 9:37-43);
- The silencing of demons (Matt 8:16; Mark 1:32-35; Luke 4:40-41)

Below are several resources that you can use to study demons and our victory in Christ this week.

- John MacArthur and Randy Mayhue, "Why We Should Not Fear Demons" https://www.crossway.org/articles/why-we-should-not-fear-satan-and-demons/
- Baker's Evangelical Dictionary of Biblical Theology "Demon" https://www.biblestudytools.com/dictionary/demon/
- John Blanchard, "Demons: Servants of Satan" https://www.ligonier.org/learn/articles/demons-servants-satan/