

The Gospel According to MARK

Chapter 5:1-20

“DEMON POSSESSION!”

FOUR KEYS TO VICTORY:

> Key #1 – Understand that Demon POSSESSION is Real! (v1-7)

- **Who or what are these DEMONS?** – Demons another name for fallen angels who joined the kingdom of Satan in rebellion against God. The origin of demons is not explicitly discussed in the Bible. But the New Testament speaks of the fall and later imprisonment of a group of angels (1 Peter 3:19-20; 2 Peter 2:4; Jude 6). The group that participated in the fall apparently followed one of their own number, SATAN. The fall occurred before God's CREATION of the world, leaving Satan and his angels free to contaminate the human race with wickedness (Gen 3; Matt 25:41; Rev 12:9). Only part of the fallen angels took part in the wickedness at the time of the Flood (Gen 6:1-4). These were the ones who were imprisoned. God left the rest free to try to undermine the cause of righteousness in the world. A symbolic view of this "initial" fall appears in Rev 12:3-4 where the dragon (a symbol for Satan) "drew a third of the stars of heaven" (a symbol for angels) and "threw them to the earth." Thus, Satan has his own angels, presumably these demons (Matt 25:41; Rev 12:9).

Demons are designated in a number of different ways in the New Testament. Quite frequently they are called "unclean spirits" (Matt 10:1; Mark 6:7). Another descriptive phrase for them is "wicked (or evil) spirit" (Luke 7:21; Acts 19:12-13). In his writings Paul calls them "deceiving spirits" (1 Tim 4:1). John refers to "the spirit of error" (1 John 4:6) and "spirits of demons" (Rev 16:14). Luke describes one demon as a "spirit of divination" (Acts 16:16). The only individual demon named in the New Testament (Satan himself is never referred to as a demon) is the one called Abaddon in Hebrew and Apollyon in Greek (Rev 9:11). Some scholars believe this is another name for Satan or that this is an unfallen angel. But stronger evidence suggests he was a fallen angelic leader who is subject to the kingly authority of Satan. Legion (Mark 5:9; Luke 8:30) is probably a collective name for a group of demons rather than the name of a single demon. A prime purpose of Jesus' earthly ministry was to overcome the power of Satan. This included His conquest of the demonic realm (Matt 12:25-29; Luke 11:17-22; John 12:31; 1 John 3:8). This explains the fierce conflict between Jesus and these evil spirits while He was on earth. Following the resurrection of Jesus and His return to heaven, these demonic principalities and powers have continued their warfare against those who are His followers (Rom 8:38-39; Eph 6:12). Yet Satan and his allies will finally be overthrown by God. After Christ returns, the devil and his angels will be defeated and thrown into the lake of fire and brimstone (Matt 25:41; Rev 20:10). This is a doom with which demons are quite familiar (Matt 8:29). God will achieve the ultimate victory in this conflict which has been going on since the beginning of time. (from Nelson's Bible Dictionary)

(v1-5) Observe the actions of the demon possessed man: (1) He came to Jesus for deliverance; (2) the demons caused to live amongst the tombs, a fascination and habitation with death; (3) the demons made him powerful, chains could not hold him; (4) he was uncontrollable, whereas, "no one could tame him"; (5) he was alone, in agony, crying out, cutting himself.

(v6-7) Demons are DECEIVERS! – This is false worship, they know that one day they will be judged and tormented for eternity, this is manipulation as well as recognition, **“Jesus, Son of the Most High God.”**

Jesus said in **Matt 25:41-42** - *"Then He will also say to those on the left hand, 'Depart from Me, you cursed, into the everlasting fire prepared for the devil and his angels: Jude 6 - And the angels who did not keep their proper domain, but left their own abode, He has reserved in everlasting chains under darkness for the judgment of the great day*

> Key #2 – We Must Know the POWER of CHRIST (v8-14)

(v8-9) Why does this demon refer to himself as “LEGION”? This is for INTIMIDATION and MULTITUDE! A “Legion” is the principal unit of the Roman army, consisting of 3,000 to 6,000 infantry troops and 100 to 200 cavalrymen.

(v10-14) Demons want to inhabit someone, if not, some thing, such as pigs. Jesus said in **Luke 11:24-26** - *"When an unclean spirit goes out of a man, he goes through dry places, seeking rest; and finding none, he says, 'I will return to my house from which I came.' And when he comes, he finds it swept and put in order. Then he goes and takes with him seven other spirits more wicked than himself, and they enter and dwell there; and the last state of that man is worse than the first."*

One commentator writes, “Certainly, Jesus was free to send the demons wherever He desired - into the abyss, into the swine, or to any other place that He chose. Then why send them into the swine? For one thing, by doing it that way, Jesus gave proof to all the spectators that a miracle of deliverance had really taken place. The destruction of the pigs also gave assurance to the two men that the unclean spirits were actually gone. But more than anything else, the drowning of the 2,000 swine was a vivid object lesson to this Christ - rejecting crowd that, to Satan, a pig is as good as a man! In fact, Satan will make a man into a pig! The Lord was warning the citizens against the powers of sin and Satan. It was a dramatic sermon before their very eyes: "The wages of sin is death!"”

> **Key #3 – There’s Deliverance from the “Prince of Darkness” to the “Prince of PEACE!” (v15-17)**
(In Acts 19:11-20 we see demons over power men who are not in the authority of Christ.)

> **Key #4 – Let’s PROCLAIM the GOOD NEWS! (v18-20)**

- **Christians must Prepare and Proclaim – Ephesians 6:10-20**

(v10) Be Strong in the Lord & in the Power of His Might (v10) - 2 Cor 10:3-6 - For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war according to the flesh. For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal but *mighty in God* for pulling down strongholds, casting down arguments and every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God, bringing every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ, and being ready to punish all disobedience when your obedience is fulfilled.

(v11-17) Put on the whole armor of God - Satan’s army is described in rankings: Principalities are demons that have the oversight of nations. **Powers** are the privates who are the demons wanting to possess human beings. **Rulers of darkness of this world** are those demons that have charge of Satan’s worldly business. **Spiritual wickedness in high places** is demons in the heavenlies who have charge of religion.

(v13-17) Put on the armor of God and stand against the enemy!

(v14) - Have your waist girded with TRUTH!

- **Put on the breastplate of RIGHTEOUSNESS!**

(v15) Shod your feet with the preparation of the GOSPEL OF PEACE!

(v16) Take the shield of FAITH & quench the fiery darts of the wicked one!

(v17) - Take the helmet of SALVATION!

- **Take the sword of the Spirit, which is the WORD OF GOD!**

(v18-20) Watch & Pray - Matt 26:41- Watch and pray, lest you enter into temptation. The spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak."