



Demons

Women's Discipleship Class – January 11, 2018

Verses Covered This Week

Matthew 8:29

Mark 1:34

Daniel 10:10 – 14

2 Kings 19:35

Jude 1:9

Mark 5:1 – 20

Luke 11:24 – 26

Matthew 12:27 – 29

Revelation 3:20

Ephesians 1:13 – 14

Ephesians 6:10 – 18

2 Corinthians 4:4 – 6

1 Timothy 4:1 – 3

2 Corinthians 10:3 – 6

Acts 19:11 - 20

We're going to cover a lot of ground today. So you're going to have to hang in there with me fast. Number one: go to Matthew 8:29. Now we won't go there, but a corollary is James 2:28. We're going to go to Matthew. It's always difficult, but here's the first thing. They kick the demons out of the Gadarene demoniac.

[²⁹Behold, they cried out, "What have you to do with us, O Son of God? Have You come here to torment us before the time?"](#)

So they know their destiny. They know they can't be saved. James says that they believe that God has won and tremble at that belief. But nothing can happen. So their destiny is set and they know what it is. So their terror right here is, when He casts them out of the pigs, "Are you going to send us there before our time?" They know there's a destiny coming, they know it's sealed, there's nothing they can do. Demons are never offered salvation. Now look at Mark 1:34. They are not only our enemy, they're really Jesus' enemy. Listen to Mark. He's casting demons out. He's healing a lot of people. Now look at verse 34 of Mark 1.

³⁴He healed many who were sick with various diseases, He cast out many demons; and He would not permit the demons to speak because they knew Him.

From day one, if you remember when Jesus comes out of the water at the baptism of John, God says, “Behold my beloved Son in whom I am well pleased.” Jesus wanted the Father to identify who He was; He did not want His authenticity vindicated by demonic powers. If you remember, again, Matthew 16 where Jesus looks at Simon Peter and says, “Blessed are you my Father has revealed this to you Who is in heaven.” He wanted an authentication from the Holy Spirit, the Father. He did not want the demons to have anything to do with authenticating His ministry. Now go to Daniel 10:13. We’re going to see that they are organized. And, again, a place we won’t go but is really part of the reference scheme although we’ll go there later today. Paul says, now you stay in Daniel, he says,

¹⁰Be strong in the Lord and in the strength of His might. ¹¹Put on the whole armor of God, so that you will be able to stand firm against the schemes of the devil.

We will look at that next Thursday. He says,

¹²We do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, the authorities, the cosmic powers over this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places.

Now this is one of those places where you actually see some of this. As a matter of fact, go up to verse 10. Remember, Daniel’s been praying. He prayed three times a day and here’s the response from Gabriel. Now listen carefully.

¹⁰Behold, a hand touched me and set me trembling on my hands and knees. ¹¹He said to me, “O Daniel, man greatly loved, understand the words that I speak to you and stand upright, for now I have been sent to you.” When he had spoken this word to me, I stood up trembling. ¹²Then he said to me, “Fear not, Daniel, from the first day you set your heart to understand and humbled yourself before your God, your words have been heard and I have come because of your words. ¹³The prince of the kingdom of Persia withstood me twenty-one days;

So it’s three weeks since Gabriel has been sent from heaven to bring a message to Daniel about which Daniel’s been praying. When he says the prince of the kingdom of Persia, he’s obviously not referencing a human being. There’s no way a human being can have any effect on a demon particularly when we look at what we’ll look at next. But here’s what he says; but Michael, which would be whom? Archangel of God.

but Michael, once of the chief princes, came to help me, for I was left there with the kings of Persia. ¹⁴And I came to make you understand what is to happen to your people in the latter days, for the vision pertains to the days yet to come.”

So what you have here is you have a demon who is over Persia, one demon, and then you have other demons, obviously, under him and they are organized in a way that when Gabriel is sent to

Daniel from God, it takes three weeks for him to get there. There's this huge cosmic battle that we don't see, that we don't understand. The reminder, had Daniel not stayed waiting on the answer, would not have heard from Gabriel. So these guys are tremendously organized. Obviously there are demons that are assigned to places. There's probably a demon assigned to America. Under him are demons assigned to the states, assigned to the cities, there's a College Station demon, Bryan demon, and then there are demons that are assigned to you. We know that because the Bible says you have a guardian angel, the assumption clearly being there's an angel assigned to you at birth and there's probably a demon assigned to you as well. So there is a huge organizational scheme and there is a battle going on up there that, obviously, affects us here.

Now these beings are incredibly powerful. Look at 2 Kings 19:35. Now here's what it says.

³⁵And that night the angel of the Lord, (now this is obviously an angel, but these demons have this kind of power) he struck down 185,000 in the camp of the Assyrians.

So these angels and demons, these beings that are around us, are enormously powerful. Now let me show you the enormous power in regard to demonic activity. So they have not lost that power. Turn to the book of Jude 1:9. It says,

⁹But when the archangel Michael, contending with the devil was disputing about the body of Moses, he did not presume to pronounce a blasphemous judgment, but said, "The Lord rebuke you!"

Now remember, Moses is buried, no one knows the burial place, Satan wanted his body, because if he can get his body, he can get Israel to worship Moses instead of his Father. So he wants the body. Michael and he get into a dispute. It's interesting, here is the archangel of God who can't overpower Satan. He looks at him and says, "The Lord rebuke you!" He does not have the ability to overpower even Satan even though he's the archangel of God. So there is an enormous power to these beings. Now they can, go to Mark 5:1 – 20, we won't read the whole thing, but obviously demons can possess people. There are six instances of Jesus casting demons out directly. There are a few other instances that we have allusions to, for example, Mary Magdalene, the demons are kicked out of her. We don't actually have the reference of Him doing that, but there is the allusion of that. So there's a great number of demons that are cast out. In Mark 5:1 – 20, He heals a man who's just crazy, verse 5.

⁵Constantly, night and day, he was screaming among the tombs and in the mountains, and gashing himself with stones. ⁶When he saw Jesus from afar, he ran and fell down before him; ⁷crying out with a loud voice, "What do you have to do with me, Jesus, son of God? I adjure You by God, do not torment me!" ⁸Jesus had been saying to him, "Come out of the man, you unclean spirit!" ⁹And He was asking him, "What is your name?" And he said to Him, "My name is Legion; for we are many."

A legion, in a Roman army, at one point it could be as many as 6,000. In later years, the Romans cut it down to 1,024 men. So he has anywhere from 1,024 to 6,000 demons inside him, possessing him. Now when they possess you, they completely control you. You no longer have an option. That's why he falls at Jesus' feet, the only hope for a demon-possess man is that he is exorcised,

that Christ removes that demon. You are totally under their control. That's why it says he's always crying out, cutting himself with stones, he's up among the tombs, nobody could bind him, I mean, it's absolutely crazy. But then when Jesus exorcises him, look in verse 15.

¹⁵They came to Jesus and observed the demon-possessed man, the one who had had the legion, sitting there, clothed and in his right mind, and they were afraid.

He is completely healed once these demons are removed from him. Now so they can possess. We have Paul, the only instance of the apostles, we have Paul in Acts 16 kicking a demon out. But there are obviously numerous allusions to this. It talks about in Capernaum, Jesus cast a number of demons out of the people in that city. So you have this deal where Satan can possess you. Now the problem you have in the New Testament, it doesn't tell you how. It doesn't tell you what causes it. It doesn't tell you how a person becomes possessed. There's no way, really, to know. In the end it really doesn't matter. The need is there, but demons can possess.

Now when you get to binding people. Look at Luke 11:24 – 26. Now this is why you can't bind people and loose Satan from them. Now listen carefully.

²⁴“When the unclean spirit is gone out of a person, it passes through waterless places seeking rest, and finding none, it says, ‘I will return to my house from which I came,’
²⁵When it comes, it finds a house swept and put in order. ²⁶Then it goes and brings seven other spirits more evil than itself, and they enter and dwell there; and the last state of that person is worse than the first.”

So you have this, you can have an exorcism and not heal the person. So exorcism does not heal a person. What exorcism does, it allows a person a chance for Christ to seal them and remove the ability for demons to ever enter them again. Look at Matthew 12:27 – 29. Now take a look at this. Jesus is talking.

²⁷If I cast out demons by Beelzebul, by whom do your sons cast them out? For this reason, they will be your judges. ²⁸But if it is by the Spirit of God that I cast out demons, then the kingdom of God has come upon you. ²⁹Or how can someone enter a strong man's house and carry off his property, unless he first binds the strong man? And then he will plunder his house.

Now that verse has been used for a bazillion crazy, idiotic things in Christianity. He says that you do go into the house and bind Satan. His argument is that I have entered into Satan's kingdom and I'm binding him by people being exorcised. Now here's the problem. If this is true, Luke 11, then just because you remove the demon from someone, actually may put them in worse shape than if you had not. If they don't come to Christ, then this is what I want you to understand. Look at Revelation 3:20. Listen to Revelation 3:20; one of the most misapplied scriptures in the entire New Testament.

²⁰Behold, I stand at the door and knock; if anyone hears My voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and eat with him, and he with Me.

Who's He talking to? Non-believers or believers? Believers. Is the church His or not His? So it's His church, right. Why doesn't He open the door and come in? Because He never forces Himself on anybody. He doesn't force Himself on His own church. He doesn't force Himself on people that do not know Christ. He does not force Himself ever. He offers you an opportunity. Now go to Ephesians 1:13. Now listen to what Paul writes.

¹³In Him, you also, when you heard the word of the truth, the gospel of your salvation – having also believed in Him, (there's your choice, He makes you hear it, you decide to believe in Him) you were sealed in Him with the promised Holy Spirit, ¹⁴who is the guarantee of our inheritance, until we acquire possession of it, to the praise of His glory.

So here's what has to happen. Ephesians 1: you hear, you believe, and you are sealed. This is a powerful Greek word. It's a Greek word, *sphragizō*, it's actually a Greek word that means, it was used for the signet ring of a king. When a king had a document, he didn't want anybody to open it, he put wax on it, he'd turn it and he put his signet ring down on it so that everybody knew, if you didn't wear that ring, you couldn't open the document. So he uses a particular word that the Ephesians would know clearly in that day. And so here's what you have. A demon can be exorcised from a person, but if they don't respond to Jesus, then the demon will return with even seven more and when you look at the legion position, probably they just keep adding demons. At which point, then, once the exorcism occurs, now you have a chance to hear Christ, believe, and then He seals you. So as a Christian, if you're sealed by the hand of the Creator then you can't be possessed. When I hear of people delivering believers, that is a theological construct that is simply not true. Once you are sealed by the Holy Spirit, when demons come and see you and it is the Holy Spirit in you that is the sealing, they mess with you, they mess with angels, they don't mess with Jesus. They don't with a single person of the trinity. So when they run into the Holy Spirit, they're done, they leave. They cannot possess you. So you can't bind anybody because even if God uses you to exorcise a demon from someone, they then have to make a choice when they hear the Holy Spirit, whether or not they'll believe and be sealed. If they, in choice, decide, "No, I hear about Jesus, but I am not going to surrender to Him." Then at that point, now the state is worse than it was before. So you cannot bind Satan in people's lives. You may be able to exorcise someone, but that is not binding Satan. All it's doing is giving them an opportunity to have a shot to hear Jesus. You can't bind them because all you're doing is setting up a window of being able to hear the Holy Spirit. If they don't believe and are sealed, then immediately those demons return and re-possess the individual. So that's why you can't run around binding people. And you can't run around, again we talked about this last week, you can't bind him from rooms because this is his world. So you can exorcise, but not bind. Jesus does binding, but the only way they're bound is after the exorcism, they hear, believe, and then the Holy Spirit seals them.

Now once you come to Christ, you now become God's tool in impacting the world. Go to Ephesians 6:10.

¹⁰Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of His might. ¹¹Put on the whole armor of God, so you can be able to stand against the schemes of the devil. ¹²We don't wrestle against flesh and blood,

So here's the demonic forces we wrestle against now that we are possessed by God.

¹³Therefore take up the whole armor of God, so that you will be able to resist in the evil day, and having done everything, to stand firm. ¹⁴Stand firm therefore, having the belt of truth (obviously God's word), and having put on the breastplate of righteousness (a righteousness that He has placed in your life), ¹⁵and having shod your feet with the preparation of the gospel of peace; ¹⁶in all circumstances, take up the shield of faith (you believe the truth) with which you can extinguish all the flaming darts of the evil one. ¹⁷The helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.

And then he moves down into this. Look at this.

¹⁸Praying at all times in the Spirit, with all prayer and supplication.

Remember we talked about prayer, that if you do intercessory prayer correctly, it is based on the leadership of the Spirit. The leadership of the Spirit is based on whether or not you put on the armor of God. So we've got this necessity of praying in the Spirit. Now what happens then is this. Now I want you to listen to me carefully. And I want to say this as precisely as I can. What I've always heard is that there are tools, spiritual weapons, that I have where I damage Satan's work. But in fact, you're the weapon that damages Satan's work. Once you hear and believe and are sealed, you become the weapon that God uses to impact His kingdom. Now we are in a chess game. We're not in a game of checkers. The game of checkers they only move one or two ways. In a chess game you have a lot of different pieces, they all move different ways, everybody has different gifts, everybody has different callings, everybody has different places of service. But wherever you are, housewife, stay-at-home mom, you own a business, doesn't matter, whatever it is, you are a weapon in that arena based on what you do with Christ and whether or not you allow, you put on the armor of God, so that even your prayer life impacts. So there are two things that happen: you have your prayer life and you have, now watch what he says, the sword of the Spirit which is the Word of God. Now what was the very first thing we talked about when we got in here? We talked about the fact that the word of God comes in two ways. It comes from the Spirit speaking to us directly, subjectively, we have the objective scripture written by the Holy Spirit. You always take the subjective direction of the Spirit; you judge it by the objectivity of the Scripture. But His word to you in here and how He leads you on how to pray for other people, makes you a weapon of warfare against the enemy who is pummeling people.

I think part of the reason the church has lost its impact in American is we don't care about this anymore. All we care about is how large our churches are. How many people come here? How much money do we have? How many staff do we have? When I go to conventions, those are the questions that I'm asked. But you become the issue. We pray what we want to pray instead of what the Holy Spirit tells us to pray, so your prayers are ineffective. You're telling God instead of Him telling you, which is idolatry. And then we really don't open the word of God. We're in Facebook more than we are in the scripture. So that fact that you have these two weapons that make us a weapon, this is the sword of the Spirit, the word of God. It doesn't have an impact in our life. We pray what we want to and we don't really get into the word, then we're not weapon ready; we're on the chess board, but He can't move us and do anything with us and it allows the enemy to move his chess pieces and absolutely impact. Had Daniel not waited to hear what God said to him, he would have missed completely the message from Gabriel, and we wouldn't have

his statement about the second coming and about various other issues in the book of Daniel. So you're the issue.

Now one last thing; and I'm sure this will open up some questions. Look at 2 Corinthians 4:4 – 7. And then a corollary which I'll turn to, 1 Timothy 4:1, because this is going to be a little brutal. 2 Corinthians 4, now listen to this:

⁴in their case the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelievers to keep them from seeing the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God. ⁵What we proclaim is not ourselves, but Jesus Christ as Lord, and ourselves as your servants for Jesus' sake. ⁶For God, who said, "Let light shine out of darkness," is the One who has shone in our hearts to give the Light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Christ.

So we have this deal that we are the people that make the difference. Now I want you to look at 1 Timothy 4:1 with me. Slide over there. And I want you to listen to what he writes.

¹But the Spirit expressly says that in later times some will depart from the faith, by devoting themselves to deceitful spirits and teachings of demons, ²through the insincerity of the liars whose consciences are seared, (now here's a teaching demon) ³who forbid marriage and require abstinence from food, asceticism, that God created to be received with thanksgiving by those.

So we have what seems to be a minor issue. Asceticism is the idea that you stay away from certain foods so it will bless you in Christ. Big deal. He says that it's a doctrine of demons. So you have this thing. The bottom line in your life is whether or not you have the ability to stand for Christ is completely based on what you believe that God has given you in the Scripture. If you take what He says in the Scripture and you stand on it, then the enemy cannot effect you. But if you do not do that, then the enemy has the ability to absolutely slaughter you. And that is the key. Once you come to Christ your ability to handle the enemy is going to be based exclusively on what you believe about Jesus. Now, again, look at 2 Corinthians 10:3. Now listen to what he writes.

³For though we walk in the flesh, we are not waging war according to the flesh, ⁴for the weapons of our warfare are not of the flesh, but have divine power to destroy strongholds. ⁵We destroy arguments and every lofty opinion raised against the knowledge of God, we take every thought captive to obey Christ, ⁶being ready to punish every disobedience, whenever your obedience is complete.

Now look at what he talks about. He talks about weapons of our warfare are not of the flesh. Look at what he talks about. He uses the word argument, he uses the phrase lofty opinions, he says we takes these thoughts captive to Christ. That is, what comes into your head is what will determine whether or not, now I want to say this carefully, I'm going to tell my little demons story here and then you can ask whatever you want to ask.

A demon cannot possess you; they can oppress you. They can create a stronghold in your life. That stronghold is not going to be based on their control of you. It's going to be based on them

giving you an argument and opinion or a thought that you have begun to believe instead of the truth of God. Once you begin to believe this, then they can't possess you. But they can create a stronghold in your life that will then drive your decisions.

They are real. When I was a summer missionary in New Mexico, in college. I was on a Zuni Indian reservation. So they were having a rain dance once night which was not for the public. And I snuck up on top of a, I know it's hard to believe, but I snuck up on top of this deal and was watching the rain dance. And they kept looking up at me; they weren't real happy with this guy up there. So I got down, went to bed that night, and I woke up about two in the morning, dead-awake, it was just me and another guy sleeping in the mission. A guy named John Johnson from Johnson City, Tennessee. That should have warned me right there. I wake up and there's being, I can't see it, there's this being right here, and it's speaking to me and I am terrified. And I try to scream out and I can't articulate anything. Dead wide awake. And finally this demon leaves. Once he leaves, all the fear's gone, I can talk, because I speak out loud to John. So I get up the next day and I don't do what we're supposed to do. I spent literally 10 hours in the Word because I was terrified. So I spent 10 hours in the Word and God spoke to me about a few things. So that night I went to sleep. Woke up again at two in the morning. Being next to me and I could feel a hand going down the pillow toward my neck. So it's interesting to me because this was a key point for me, particularly in regard to this. I didn't ask God anything. I simply said, "You know, God, he's your problem." And rolled over and went to sleep and I have never since that time, 1972 I think, ever had that kind of demonic assault in my life. So I think your ability to handle demonic oppression is exclusively based, not on how well you pray, but on what you believe.

If you believe God's truth, I think that's why Paul says, "Even asceticism is a doctrine of demons." Any doctrine that is contradictory to the word of God is demonic. If you look, and again, I am not attacking Catholicism, please don't take it that way, a lot of good Catholic friends, I love Catholics, but I think when it talks about forbidding marriage being a doctrine of demons, I think that's exactly why you have some of the child molestation issues you have in the Catholic church. They are living off of demonic doctrine; of forbidding marriage which is nowhere in the Scripture. You can choose to be, for example, be a eunuch. Paul was almost assuredly married when he came to Christ. He couldn't be a Pharisee without being married. He was one of the major Pharisees making his way into the Sanhedrin. Obviously he never remarries after Christ. His family left him because they were embarrassed. So he never remarries. And there are times when Jesus alludes to the fact that you can, if God leads you, choose not to marry which is your choice. But just to say I can't marry because I'm a pastor is a doctrine of demons and I think that doctrine has allowed a molestation issue to arise in Catholicism that has just engulfed them. It's had such an impact on them, it's the reason the Boy Scouts have altered. When the Boy Scouts made their deal that they would allow the issue with homosexuality inside their domain, the board was comprised of three main entities: Southern Baptists, Catholics, and Mormons. The Boys Scouts are actually the Mormons youth program. The Mormons hung us out to dry. We're the only ones that stood against it. The Catholics said nothing because, again, they were terrified of what they were facing. So I think you can see the ramifications if you ignore what God says. So you can't be possessed, you can be oppressed and will be oppressed and he can put a stronghold in your life if you believe what he says instead of what God says. We're going to look Sunday morning at a passage in Proverbs that talks about allowing steadfast love to hang firm in your life. Now the Bible never talks about us having steadfast love, it's always God having steadfast love. So the concept in the

book of Proverbs is if you don't allow yourself to understand God's love for you, and remember similar to what Paul writes in his second prayer in Ephesians where he says, "You can't know the fullness of God unless you understand His love." If Satan ever gets me to the place where I don't think God really loves me, what happens? I have a stronghold, man there's a stronghold now, if He doesn't love me I'm not sure He can take care of me, I'm not sure He's going to pull me through, and all of a sudden there's this stronghold in my life that prevents me from trusting the Father and hand Him my trial. And now I become bitter and angry and I'm captured. Not possessed, but captured.

So they can't possess you. They can oppress you. And it's all based on what you do with the word of God.

OK. And Shiplap is Greek for possession.

Q. Addiction?

A. Addiction, I think, can be a stronghold, it may also be simply part of your personality. I have an addictive personality. I know this sounds funny, but it's absolutely true. That's why I don't drink. If I eat a bowl of Blue Bell at night at 8:30, tomorrow at 8:00, I mean seriously, I will crave it. Because my personality is addictive. And so I have to really control that and so I don't drink because of that and a couple other reasons. But that's one of the reasons I don't. So I think sometimes it's a personality issue and sometimes it may be a stronghold. I think you've got to work that way through your own life.

Q. You said that if somebody is possessed they are controlled. So do we just pray that same prayer we pray for the non-believers?

A. No, no, no, no. I think if you're put in a position, then you would exorcise the demons. You don't pray for their conviction. You pray for the demon to leave them if you're put in that position. The difficulty we face is, if you look around the world and you go back to the first century, Satan operates in two ways. He does covert and he does overt. If you're in South America, it's an overt Satanic thing. Demon possession is common there. In America it's not. He hides himself here. He doesn't hide himself there. That's why I think it depends on where you are as to what he does and what your ministry is in regard to that.

Yeah, I think it depends on the situation, Dianna. I mean I don't know how you can pray conviction for somebody that's possessed. I think you have to pray that that demon's control in that person's life will be removed. Then conviction can occur. I don't think you can hear Him while you're possessed.

Q. Is it always obvious that somebody is demon possessed?

A. No. I don't think it's always obvious. That's the problem. We read Mark 5 with this Legion guy who's nuts and we think that's evidence of demon possession. No. You may not have any idea.

Q. How do you recognize demon possession?

A. I think it's totally a spiritual thing and I think that's why he's covert here in America. I think there are demon possessed where we're at and we have no idea.

Q. How do you pray for a family member that's not going to church, taking their children to church, and that sort of thing?

A. Yeah, I just pray for conviction there. That's all I'd do. Just pray that they'll see the stupidity of what they're doing.

Q. What about mental illness?

A. Yeah, that's the problem you have with mental illness. That's always a difficulty because if you look at, obviously, the guy in Mark 5, he certainly would appear to be mentally ill. I mean he's in a tomb, cutting himself with stones, running around crying all night. There is a distinction though between mental illness and demon possession. I think, boy you're in a realm I don't want to get into. You take a manic-depressive person, they can take Lithium, there's a new drug they use beyond Lithium now, but when they take that drug it really does mellow out the high and low. So you can tell with that we're not dealing with a demon, we're dealing with an actual physical malady. The difficulty you have today is if you go into a doctor's office and say, even Christian doctors today, and say, there's a phrase David uses in the Psalms, "I dissolve my couch with tears." If you go in there and make that statement, they're going to drug you immediately, which is insane. So mental illness is a whole different ball game that I don't want to get into. But I think if a drug, not a psychotropic drug, which is generally what they give you, a mood altering drug, but an actual element, giving you Lithium or something that actually does affect this, then it's not demon possession. The it's clearly an issue.

Q. So this is kind of part of last week and this week. But you were saying last week about how many demons are actually, you know, you were saying there were more than there are humans, so and you were saying it was because in the Bible you said a third of heaven fell, so what exactly, why did a third of heaven fall?

A. Yeah, that's a good question. It's the most amazing thing in scripture to me. It says that Satan talked a third of angels who are serving God to think they can overthrow Him. That's the passage in Isaiah and Ezekiel. It talks about, "I will assume to the most high." Satan thought he could overthrow God. Pride made him go there. It's staggering. And he's so good at what he does he pulled a third of angels thinking, "Hey, we can kick that guy." I mean that's amazing. And then you have the other amazing story where you have Jesus, after the resurrection, not during the three days, after the resurrection the Bible says in 1 Peter Jesus went and preached to the Spirits in prison. You know He went after those three days because He uses the two Greek words, both are used in 1 Peter, *kérussó*, to proclaim You, and *euaggelizimi*, to preach the gospel. There is no gospel without the resurrection. So He goes after the resurrection, preaches to the spirits in prison who died in the days of Noah. Remember there are kids cut off that had no chance to reach the point of

accountability. So the gospel is preached to them by Jesus. But we have no statement about whether or not responded to His preaching. Then you have at the end of time, Satan gathers, in the last chapter of Revelation, he gathers all these people together and everybody thinks they can overthrow God. And I love the statement in the Bible, it says, in 2 Thessalonians, it says Jesus will deal with them by the breath of His mouth. In other words he'll go "See ya." I mean that's it. But Satan's so good, which is why you have to stay in this book. Because he'll con you and you are not smarter than he is. He knows you better than you know yourself. He knows the Bible better than you know it.

Q. OK. So I know I know we've talked about this before. When you talked about the demons convince you whatever it is, opinion, whatever it is, argument, and you have that stronghold in your life, is 2 Peter 1:3 – 14. It's where it talks about Jesus has already given us everything we need to overcome those strongholds.

A. Yeah, absolutely. I think the stronghold is altered the second you quit believing what he's told you and believe what the Word says. When you have that lack, you don't believe God loves you and you come to Ephesians and you read you're filled with the fullness of God, when you understand the height, breadth, length, width of God's love, you go, "Oh!" And when that word reminds you of how much He loves you and you understand that steadfast love, and you see God demonstrate that love to us and we understand Christ died for us, when you grasp that, it removes that stronghold of bitterness. So you've got to handle the stronghold with God's truth. You can't handle it with your prayer life. Your prayers never mitigate your lack of faith.

Q. I have a question about age of accountability and whether or not children before that age are able to become demon possessed.

A. Yeah, that's a good question. There are children in the New Testament that are demon possessed. That's a tough thing to deal with. I don't have an answer for that. I like the phrase stage of accountability, not age of accountability, no way to know what age that is. Everybody reaches a different stage. Some people reach it at 35, some people reach it at 8. But there are children possess in the New Testament and how that works, I don't know. There may be some issue. I know having grown up in New Orleans, Louisiana, it always amazes me about how ignorant Baptists are. We freak out if we have a convention in Vegas and yet we'll go to New Orleans three or four times a year. One of the single-most demonic strongholds in America is New Orleans, Louisiana. It is vile. So it may well be if you have parents that are demon possessed or demonic, it may impact the children. I really don't know, but you do have this guy coming to Jesus saying, "My son's throwing himself in the fire. Can you do something about it?" So other than that, I have no answer for that one. And it's a tough one.

Q. I have named in my head of people I think are probably possessed. What do you think a demon possessed person looks like in the 21st century? Because you don't see people falling down and foaming at the mouth now.

A. No, and I can't say what a demon possessed person looks like. There's no these are eight things and you know he's demon possessed. Bible does not describe that. I think discernment is the only way you can handle it.

Q. Last week you said we can't go into the rooms and bind Satan from the rooms, so now this is a big thing where I work, but can you pray over somebody.

A. Yeah, that's a different thing. You're praying over an individual that's in the image of God, that God absolutely loves, versus a room. He's the god of this world. He's not the god of me unless I let him possess me. You can't bind him. You can pray different things, but you can't bind because even the stronghold is my choice. I can't unbind you from your stronghold. What I can pray is, "God show Emily what she believes is wrong." Which I have prayed in my office for people, particularly in a marriage setting.

Q. So last week when I asked a question about how Satan works in all of our lives, he has a lot more imps than there are people, so if Satan has the ability to read our minds, do each of the demons do that?

A. Absolutely. What's the one place you know Satan can read your mind when you pray? Gethsemane. He hears Jesus praying and he's on the assault while Jesus prays. If he can read, they can certainly read. There is no safe place for you. OK. You have no safe place from the enemy. Your prayer life is not a safe place. As a matter of fact, here's the danger you face. The more you pray, the more you utilize the sword of the Spirit, the more the enemy will come after you. The more demons will be assigned to you.

Acts 19, Jewish exorcists, not believers, they cast demons out of this dude, Sceva, they said,

¹³"I adjure you in the name of Jesus Christ whom Paul preaches to remove yourself from this man."

Now here's the demon's response.

¹⁵But the evil spirit answered them, "Jesus I know, Paul I recognize, but who are you?"

Now that's an interesting because what you have is obviously these demons in that area have discussed Paul. They haven't discussed others, but they've discussed him. Because his life has wrecked their kingdom in that area. You want to live in a way that the demons know your name and that they are bothered by your presence. So I think they do talk. I think they do address each other about us. And so obviously if they discussed Paul, they're going to increase their scrutiny and attack on him. They're going to lessen it on people that are not impacting their area. Why? Because they don't want to stir it up.

Q. So if Satan's not omnipresent and like Acts 19:15, "Jesus I know, Paul I recognize" not necessarily that they themselves have had, is it fair to say that, especially if you're not a person making an impact on the kingdom, that when we're dealing evil, with demonic activity, we aren't necessarily contending with Satan in and of himself?

A. No. We're rarely dealing with Satan. There are millions of people on this planet. He can be in one spot at one time. I don't know that any of us have ever even dealt with him. You're dealing with his beings. You're not dealing with him. Very rarely. I think somebody like Billy Graham, James Dobson, men whose impact is world-wide. He probably is there. But not on a normal basis.

Q. So what about, back to the room again, you hear these stories about priests go into homes having all of these issues because of demonic activity and they are removing them from the home.

A. Yeah, let me say a couple things to that. Number one, don't ever base your theology on somebody's experience. I mean you can have Mormons tell you about their experience, it's not right. So don't ever base your theology on anybody's experience. Second thing is, I do believe that a demon can be removed, it can be controlled by a person that's in God's image that has His Spirit in them and that the demons can lessen impact on them because of who you are. It's an interesting catch-22. I increase demonic activity, but also I increase my ability to handle demonic activity. But I still don't think I can kick the demons out.

I shouldn't tell you this story. I don't even know if I told my wife this one. She's probably not going to go home now. But I'm sitting in the room one night, Peg's not there, TV's not on, my dog, my Labrador's there, and I hear from the other room, "Chris." And my dog and I both turn and look. And then I'm looking down going, "Oh, this isn't good." Now nothing's ever come of that, but I'm just telling you, I didn't hear that in the top of my head. My dog heard it because she actually turned before I did. So who knows, you know, what's there.

Q. So demons still possess people today? Can they be exorcised today?

A. Oh, yeah. Sure, they can be exorcised today. Absolutely. And I think that's part of what she's alluding to. There are some, there's still some exorcisms going on, but again he's so covert here, he's so hidden, it's almost impossible to know who's mentally ill and who's demon possessed.

Q. Does someone have to ask for you to exorcise them?

A. That one isn't explained in the New Testament. You have the guy in Mark 5 coming to Jesus and falling at His feet. So God may have moved Him. I think there's got to be an interjection of God over a demon possessed person bringing them to someone, but that's my theory and that may not be true.

Q. Would it be a theological misstep to pray strength for the angels fighting to assist me?

A. We're going to look at them in two weeks. And there's a particular verse in Psalms that explains that so we'll wait until we get there.

Q. Do you think Satan, he knows the Bible, he knows Revelation, does he know he's going to be destroyed?

A. Oh, certainly. Because the Bible says he's fallen from heaven knowing his destiny is very wrathful because of that. He wants to take as many people. He wants to stick it to God as best he can. And he knows we're in God's image, so doesn't really care about us. He's just coming after us because God likes us.

Q. I remember a sermon you gave about Jesus being in the desert for 40 days and 40 nights and He was praying scripture against the temptations. I use that all the time with the kiddos that I meet with but if a person is not a saved individual, will it matter whether or not they're praying scripture?

A. They can't use scripture if they're not a believer. Number one: their prayers aren't heard because they're not a believer. They can't utilize scripture because it's not theirs. The truth is only for a believer. This is all you have for them. They have to hear, believe, and be sealed. Once they're sealed then the word becomes theirs. Holy Spirit comes in them. But no, a non-believer cannot utilize the word.

Q. It just kind of blows my mind that Satan knows what the Bible says, so he knows he's going to lose in the end.

A. You know the weird thing is it says he knows he's going to lose, but then at the end, he's bringing everybody with him, taking one last shot. I think it's a great reminder to us that we better be real humble about what we think we know. I mean it's a difficult thing.

Q. If someone that's quoting scripture and it's not from their heart and they're believers, so how do you tell the difference there?

A. That's not my problem telling the difference. How do I tell the difference doesn't matter. It's not my issue. My issue is just to bring truth out and let it go where it goes. Sunday morning I probably have, if we have 3,000 people here on Sunday morning, I'll bet four or five hundred are not believers. So my job is just to put truth out there and that's God's problem. I don't deal with that.

Q. Do you think that a lot of the hard crime that we see in the world whether it's here or other countries, is that due in large part to people that are demon possessed?

A. Oh, I don't think there's any question. Absolutely. Because Jesus said Satan was a liar and a murderer from the beginning. So absolutely. It doesn't necessarily mean that they're demon possessed, but certainly he's driving all of that. It's interesting one of the signs Jesus uses of the second coming, he says, "The love of many will grow cold." That's really where we are today.

- Q.** So when if somebody were to do, when somebody does an exorcism and they leave and that opportunity is there for the person to accept Christ, and they generally have accepted Christ or if they don't, multiple will come back to the, right? If they have accepted Christ those multiple demons just go out and find other people and try to possess them?
- A.** Demons are trying to find someplace to rest. When he kicked them out of the Gadarene demoniac, they said, "Don't send us before our time. Can we go into the pigs?" He said, "Yeah." They go into the pigs and then the pigs drown.
- Q.** So they're multiplying is what's happening?
- A.** They're not multiplying. No, no, no, no. Their number is static. They get as many people as they can. They find as many places as they can. That's hypothetical. I can't answer that one. All I know is it says, "Don't send us there before our time. Can we go over here?" Other than that, that theology is not explained in the scripture.
- Q.** So they can theoretically go into an animal?
- A.** That's the only place where it happened. So whether or not they can go into an animal, that's all it says is they went into those animals.
- Q.** What about in the Garden of Eden and Satan is beautiful, right, he's just beautiful and he went and tempted Eve, but as a serpent, right?
- A.** No, he became a serpent after that. I mean he was a serpent, but he crawled on the belly, so there's a distinction that occurs. He was gorgeous apparently, yeah. We don't really know what he looked like in that passage. That's the difficulty. You want to stay inside of what is a Biblical construct.