

Jesus > Satan

E.T.S.: Jesus's interaction with and healing of the demoniac of Gadara proves He is greater than Satan.

E.S.S.: As we do not need to fear the storm, we do not need to fear satanic attack.

Christ Follower: Depend on Jesus for deliverance from satanic attack.

Christ Seeker: Accept the Gospel of Jesus Christ for salvation.

Introduction

When He cared for the disciples when they encountered a storm, Jesus demonstrated that He provides help and hope for us when we encounter storms.

As difficult and painful as storms can be, storms are not the greatest danger to our lives. There is a greater danger still. It's this danger that Jesus and His disciples encounter on the other side of the Sea of Galilee.

Follow along as I read from the eighth chapter of the Gospel according to Luke.

Bible

(26) And they arrived at the country of the Gadarenes, which is over against Galilee.

(27) And when he went forth to land, there met him out of the city a certain man, which had devils long time, and ware no clothes, neither abode in any house, but in the tombs. (28) When he saw Jesus, he cried out, and fell down before him, and with a loud voice said, What have I to do with thee, Jesus, thou Son of God most high? I beseech thee, torment me not. (29) (For he had commanded the unclean spirit to come out of the man. For oftentimes it had caught him: and he was kept bound with chains and in fetters; and he brake the bands, and was driven of the devil into the wilderness.) (30) And Jesus asked him, saying, What is thy name? And he said, Legion: because many devils were entered into him. (31) And they besought him that he would not command them to go out into the deep. (32) And there was there an herd of many swine feeding on the mountain: and they besought him that he would suffer them to enter into them. And he suffered them. (33) Then went the devils out of the man, and entered into the swine: and the herd ran violently down a steep place into the lake, and were choked. (34) When they that fed them saw what was done, they fled, and went and told it in the city and in the country. (35) Then they went out to see what was done; and came to Jesus, and found the man, out of whom the devils were departed, sitting at the feet of Jesus, clothed, and in his right mind: and they were afraid. (36) They also which saw it told them by what means he that was possessed of the devils was healed. (37) Then the whole multitude of the country of the Gadarenes round about besought him to depart from them; for they were taken with great fear: and he went up into the ship, and returned back again. (38) Now the

man out of whom the devils were departed besought him that he might be with him: but Jesus sent him away, saying, (39) Return to thine own house, and shew how great things God hath done unto thee. And he went his way, and published throughout the whole city how great things Jesus had done unto him. (40) And it came to pass, that, when Jesus was returned, the people gladly received him: for they were all waiting for him.

Luke 8:26-40 - KJV

Introduction

When they made landfall, they were met by a man possessed of demons. This passage contains the most descriptive account of demon possession found in the Bible. It begs the question, what are demons?

Demons are angels, created by God, who rebelled against God with Lucifer, an angel who contended with God in a failed coupe attempt in heaven. We believe that the Scriptures teach that Lucifer became the Satan, and the fallen angels became the demons. We also believe that God's creative work is done, so there are no more and no less angels and demons than there were from the beginning. Additionally, we believe that Lucifer's rebellion marked a one-time opportunity for angels to either remain faithful to God or rebel and remain fallen.

After his fall, Lucifer entered a serpent in Eden shortly after the Creation. Through the serpent, Satan deceived and tempted Eve. The humans fell, and Satan plunged God's good world into darkness and brokenness. This event shows Satan's plot from then until now. He, and his

demons with him, war against God, His creation, and His purposes constantly.

Illustration

Pastor David Guzik said it this way:

We can say that demons want to inhabit bodies for the same reason why the vandal wants a spray can, or a violent man wants a gun - a body is a weapon that they can use in their attack against God. Demons also attack men because they hate the image of God in man, so they try to mar that image, by debasing man and making him grotesque.

Introduction

This means that he constantly wars against you!

The account in Luke 8, also found in Matthew 8 and Mark 5, graphically illustrates an important, oft-neglected spiritual truth.

Illustration

Paul Hiebert, an anthropologist and missiologist, grew up in India, but received ministry training in the West. He writes about the West's neglect of the spirit world, good and evil. While other places in the world maintain a focus on the spirit world, though not necessarily from a biblical truth perspective, those of us in the West tend to minimize it. Or, we think about it in terms of God and us as spiritual beings, but do not theologically or practically think about or live within

the scope of evil spirit beings. Paul calls this a *blind spot*.

Introduction

Today, we want to open our eyes to this truth. As we do, let's not be fearful. Though we need to understand that we will encounter satanic attack, just as we encounter storms, we also need to understand that we can depend on Jesus when we encounter satanic attack, just as we can depend on Him when we encounter storms.

1...Satan and his demons are Persuasive (vv. 27, 29)

Explanation

Notice the behavior of this man. According to Luke's account, he was obsessed with nakedness and death. Mark adds that he was always crying and cutting himself with stones.

Application

I do not think it is coincidence that we see these behaviors today. What the world will always label as a psychotic or psychiatric illness is, at times, the persuasion of Satan and evil spirits on a dark, broken world and the people who live in it.

Explanation

How does this persuasion take place?

I think we will find three specific ideas in the Scriptures.

A...Possession

Explanation

That is what our text describes. The man, actually two according to Matthew's Gospel, literally had demons living inside him. Biblical evidence leads us to believe that only those who do not believe in Jesus can experience demonic possession.

Application

Demon possession is most often discussed in the Bible as occurring during the time of Christ, but it has happened at all times and will continue until God eternally defeats His enemies.

B...Oppression

Explanation

This word is not used to describe satanic activity in the Bible, but is the word that has been used to describe Satan's attacks against God's people.

The Bible declares this about Satan's work against God's people:

Bible

(11) Put on the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil.

Ephesians 6:11 - KJV

Explanation

Wiles describes Satan's scheme and strategy. He schemes against God's people to strategically disarm, discourage, and defeat them.

Bible

(8) Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour: (9) Whom resist stedfast in the faith, knowing that the same afflictions are accomplished in your brethren that are in the world.

1 Peter 5:8-9 - KJV

Explanation

Satan constantly hunts for believers to take down.

C...Deception

Explanation

Jesus spoke about Satan in John 8:44:

Bible

(44) Ye are of your father the devil, and the lusts of your father ye will do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and abode not in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaketh a lie, he speaketh of his own: for he is a liar, and the father of it.

John 8:44 - KJV

Explanation

Satan seeks to persuade people to sin or, at least, to sitting out the battle through deception.

Illustration

Think about this: Satan is so persuasive that, even during the righteous, prosperous, and perfect millennial reign of Jesus, Satan will persuade a large multitude to follow him in rebellion against Jesus.

Application

Can you recognize Satan and his demons' persuasion in your life?

They will work to persuade your thinking and practice in order to disarm, discourage, and defeat you.

2...Satan and his demons are Powerful (v. 29)

Explanation

The text records that the society this man was part of attempted to bind him by chaining him and placing him in fetters. However they tried, it never worked. He tore the chains off and broke the fetters in pieces. He was not able to do this from his normal human strength; the demons gave a supernatural strength.

While that may sound cool, the supernatural strength the demons provided accomplished no good, beneficial purpose.

The physical strength exemplified by the demons illustrates the power, physical or otherwise, at Satan's disposal.

Examples of his strength appear throughout Scripture.

- Pharaoh's magicians who replicated or imitated the first three miracles (see Exodus 7-8)
- The prince of the kingdom of Persia (we believe a personification of Satan or one of his demonic beings) who withstood God's angelic messenger, as well as Michael and an angelic host for three weeks (see Daniel 10:13)
- Gentiles under *Satan's power* while lost (see Acts 26:18)
- Satan's messenger involved in discouraging Paul (see 2 Corinthians 12:7)
- Satan hindered Paul's ministry (see 1 Thessalonians 2:18)

Application

Satan will use all the power at his disposal to disarm, discourage, and defeat you.

- He'll still replicate or imitate God's work to keep your eyes off God and His work.
- He'll still hinder God's work to you or God's work through you.
- He'll still use what you face to discourage you.

Are you ready?

Are you prepared to face that kind of power?

3...Satan and his demons are Defeated

(vv. 31-33)

Explanation

The text identifies the authority and power of Jesus over the demonic beings. Regardless of the name, the number, or the strength of them, they were subject to the word and work of Jesus!

Notice how the demons had to obey the command of Jesus and could not go beyond the permission of Jesus.

Though there is ongoing warfare, the victory is already certain because the essential battle was already won.

When did this occur?

What event secured the victory?

A...The Cross

Explanation

The death of Jesus on the Cross.

I know. That sounds crazy, right? Victory, through death?

Listen to what Paul wrote in Colossians 2:14-15:

Bible

(14) Blotting out the handwriting of ordinances that was against us, which was contrary to us, and took it out of the way, nailing it to his cross; (15) And having spoiled principalities and powers, he made a shew of them openly, triumphing over them in it.

Colossians 2:14-15 - KJV

Explanation

At the cross, Jesus went up against the greatest powers of earth and hell and won the victory!

The language here is that of the Roman traditional victory parade where a conquering general led his defeated captives through the streets in triumph.

One said it this way:

The death of Christ was not only a pardon; it also manifested might. It not only

canceled a debt; it was a glorious triumph (Erdman, as cited in Guzik).

B...The Church

Explanation

Jesus won the victory at the cross, and He gave the victory to His church.

Bible

(18) And I say also unto thee, That thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.

Matthew 16:18 - KJV

(14) Now thanks be unto God, which always causeth us to triumph in Christ, and maketh manifest the savour of his knowledge by us in every place. (15) For we are unto God a sweet savour of Christ, in them that are saved, and in them that perish:

2 Corinthians 2:14-15 - KJV

Application

Satan is persuasive and powerful. He seeks to disarm, discourage, and defeat you. However, remember always that he is already defeated.

You do not need to live disarmed, discouraged, and defeated personally.

The church does not need to live like we are disarmed, discouraged, and defeated. We already have victory in His cross, and we can continue to live in victory as we take up our cross and

follow Him.

Conclusion

How will you respond to His truth?

Christ Follower: Depend on Jesus for deliverance from satanic attack.

Christ Seeker: Accept the Gospel of Jesus Christ for salvation.