

Spooky Spirits
Demons in the Gospels
The Laurel Center
October 30, 2015

Main Idea: We do not have to be afraid of demons but have authority from Jesus over them.

Introduction

Tomorrow is Halloween and most of the month of October has been devoted to the very popular fascination with demons and the demonic. It seems that October is dominated by this fascination humans have with evil and the dark spiritual world. We are currently in a series based on the gospel of Matthew talking about how to follow Jesus. But today I want to focus on the Gospels total and how they deal with the demonic forces in the first century world and in ours today.

TV shows, documentaries, movies, books and all kinds of media are devoted to demons and the spiritual realm. We need to be getting our information from the Bible rather than other sources on the spiritual realm. Demons have an agenda and are not afraid to live about what they are and their agenda. Let us look to God and his Word to find out the truth about demons and the evil side of the spiritual realm.

We're going to survey how Jesus dealt with demons in the Gospels. It is so important that we see how Jesus reacts to demons and how they react to him. Our world is hungry to see how Christians deal with demons. The fascination with evil spirits and wickedness in the spiritual realm are plain to see in our society. Mark's Gospel seems to speak the most about demons and demonic possession. Luke also spends much time speaking about how Jesus deals with demons. Let us now look at how the Gospels deal with demons with special attention to Matthew.

Mark 9:17-29

17 And someone from the crowd answered him, "Teacher, I brought my son to you, for he has a spirit that makes him mute. **18** And whenever it seizes him, it throws him down, and he foams and grinds his teeth and becomes rigid. So I asked your disciples to cast it out, and they were not able." **19** And he answered them, "O faithless generation, how long am I to be with you? How long am I to bear with you? Bring him to me." **20** And they brought the boy to him. And when the spirit saw him, immediately it convulsed the boy, and he fell on the ground and rolled about, foaming at the mouth. **21** And Jesus asked his father, "How long has this been happening to him?" And he said, "From childhood. **22** And it has often cast him into fire and into water, to destroy him. But if you can do anything, have compassion on us and help us." **23** And Jesus said to him, " 'If you can'! All things are possible for one who believes." **24** Immediately the father of the child cried out and said, "I believe; help my unbelief!" **25** And when Jesus saw that a crowd came running together, he rebuked the unclean spirit, saying to it, "You mute and deaf

spirit, I command you, come out of him and never enter him again.” **26** And after crying out and convulsing him terribly, it came out, and the boy was like a corpse, so that most of them said, “He is dead.” **27** But Jesus took him by the hand and lifted him up, and he arose. **28** And when he had entered the house, his disciples asked him privately, “Why could we not cast it out?” **29** And he said to them, “This kind cannot be driven out by anything but prayer.”

- I.** We must have faith in Jesus and not fear demons (Mark 9:17-29).
 - A Demons abuse those they possess.
 - B We must have faith in Jesus to cast them out.
 - C Jesus has power over demons.
 - D Jesus gives us authority over demons.

Luke 8:27–36

27 When Jesus had stepped out on land, there met him a man from the city who had demons. For a long time he had worn no clothes, and he had not lived in a house but among the tombs. **28** When he saw Jesus, he cried out and fell down before him and said with a loud voice, “What have you to do with me, Jesus, Son of the Most High God? I beg you, do not torment me.” **29** For he had commanded the unclean spirit to come out of the man. (For many a time it had seized him. He was kept under guard and bound with chains and shackles, but he would break the bonds and be driven by the demon into the desert.) **30** Jesus then asked him, “What is your name?” And he said, “Legion,” for many demons had entered him. **31** And they begged him not to command them to depart into the abyss. **32** Now a large herd of pigs was feeding there on the hillside, and they begged him to let them enter these. So he gave them permission. **33** Then the demons came out of the man and entered the pigs, and the herd rushed down the steep bank into the lake and drowned. **34** When the herdsmen saw what had happened, they fled and told it in the city and in the country. **35** Then people went out to see what had happened, and they came to Jesus and found the man from whom the demons had gone, sitting at the feet of Jesus, clothed and in his right mind, and they were afraid. **36** And those who had seen it told them how the demon-possessed man had been healed.

- II.** Jesus’ dialogue with a demon shows the dangers of possession (Luke 8:27-36).
 - A Demons don’t care about your welfare.
 - B Demons can stand up to Jesus’ authority.

Matthew 12:43–45

43 “When the unclean spirit has gone out of a person, it passes through waterless places seeking rest, but finds none. **44** Then it says, ‘I will return to my house from which I came.’ And when it comes, it finds the house empty, swept, and put in order. **45** Then it goes and brings with it 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 also will it be with this evil generation.”

III. Demons seek to destroy us (Matthew 12:43-45)

A Jesus cleans us out of demonic oppression.

B We are vulnerable if we don't stay clean.

Conclusion

As we have seen from a survey of Gospel passages dealing with demon possession, we need not fear demons or the evil principalities of the spiritual realm. Jesus is the ultimate authority. No demon can stand up to Jesus. Jesus is the one who has all authority. Jesus gave authority to believers so that when we stand in his name against them they cannot stand. We need not fear demons because Jesus is greater than demons and has authority over them. We are protected from them as believers in Jesus as long as we have a strong and close relationship with Jesus.