

Matthew 8:28-34 The Demoniacs Spiritual Warfare/Demons

Transition:

So far in our study of the gospel of Matthew we have covered many topics like sin, salvation, worship and prayer. A large part of Jesus' ministry was casting out demons. This topic is often disregarded in churches today, and unfortunately when it is discussed, we have allowed our culture to influence what we believe about demons instead of looking to Scripture. Let us not look to movies and folklore for advice on spiritual warfare, but believe what the Bible says.

Tell the story:

Tell the story (with passion!) the best as you can, don't stop and teach, try not to make points, just tell the story. Perhaps leave some parts out or make a mistake, just to see if your group catches it!

Rebuild the story:

Chronologically rebuild the story by asking questions. Have the group look for what was added or left out by looking in their Bibles and going back over the story. Then have someone else tell the story the best they can – just like you modeled the first time.

Discussion Questions:

1. What did you notice about how the demons acknowledged Jesus?
2. Why do you think Jesus gave permission for the demons to go into the pigs?
3. Why did the people of that region beg Jesus to leave?

Fundamental:

Spiritual Warfare/Demons – The world is fascinated by demonic possession. Though still relevant, spiritual warfare is much more than that. Scripture tells us that “we are not waging war according to the flesh. For the weapons of our warfare are not of the flesh but have divine power to destroy strongholds...” and “we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers over this present darkness, against spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places.”

1. How is the devil active today? (1 Pet 5:8) What is our power against him? (Jude 1:9)
2. If I am a Christian, can the devil touch me? (Rom 6:6-7) What does it mean that Jesus has overcome the world? (Col 2:15)
3. Does God have authority over all demons? How am I protected? (Luke 10:19; 2 Thes 3:3)

Homework/Challenge:

1. Memorize the Armor of God (Eph 6:10-18) and pray to put it on daily.
2. Please read Matthew 9 in preparation for next week.

Discipleship Tip:

In some ways, you wish that no temptation or harassment would ever come to the people in your small group. But we also realize that when we fight through these temptations, it develops Christ's character within us. So, pray that WHEN temptation comes, your small group would remember HOW to fight and WHO they are fighting against. May they know that Jesus has already won the war and believe in the power of His blood!

Prayer:

Pray for protection from the Lord and for the power to fight well by Christ's blood! If someone is suffering demonic attack, spend some time in worship and then lay hands on them and pray.

Extras:

Victory Over the Darkness by Neil T. Anderson